MAKE AN IMPACT AS A WOC NURSE

WHAT IS A WOC NURSE?

Wound, ostomy, and continence (WOC) nurses are experts in the care of patients with wounds, ostomies, and incontinence. Specifically, WOC nurses respond to the acute and rehabilitative needs of people with select disorders of the gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and integumentary systems. They also provide direct care to people with abdominal stomas, wounds, fistulas, drains, pressure injuries, and/or continence disorders. As an educator, consultant, researcher, and/or administrator, the WOC nurse plays a pivotal role in the delivery of optimal patient care. WOC nurses practice in a variety of settings, including acute care, long term care, home health, and outpatient.

HOW DO I BECOME A WOC NURSE?

WOC nurses are registered nurses who hold a baccalaureate degree or higher and have completed additional education focused on wounds, ostomies, and/or continence care. Formal education is provided by WOC Nursing Education Programs (WOCNEPs) accredited by the WOCN Society. Flip this page to learn more.

WHAT IS THE WOCN® SOCIETY?

Founded in 1968, the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society™ (WOCN®) is the largest and most recognized professional nursing community dedicated to advancing the practice and delivery of expert healthcare to individuals with wound, ostomy, and continence care needs. Through relevant education, effective advocacy, cutting-edge science, a supportive network, and a patient-centric approach, the Society enables professional growth for 5,000+ members and aids in improving patient outcomes.



THE PATHWAY TO BECOMING A WOUND, OSTOMY, AND CONTINENCE (WOC) NURSE



50 Contact Hours (Contact Hours or the equivalent college coursework) in each specialty area within **5 years** of taking the certification exam

1,500 practice hours* specialtyspecific in WOC role completed within the past 5 years, with at least 375 practice hours per specialty in the past year.

*Practice Hours are within the role of WOC nurse (Clinical, Academia, Industry, Administration).

REGISTERED NURSES WHO HOLD A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE OR HIGHER

WOC NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM (WOCNEP)

International Wound
Ostomy Continence Nursing
Education Program

R.B. Turnbull, Jr. MD WOC Nursing Education Program (Cleveland Clinic)

Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

La Salle University Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Education Progam

Rutgers University School of Nursing-Camden Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Education Program

The Wound and Ostomy Education Program at The Valley Foundation School of Nursing, San José State University

WEB WOC Nursing

Winona State University Wound, Ostomy & Continence Nursing Education Program TRADITIONAL PATHWAY

1 year of RN clinical nursing experience following RN licensure within 5 years of applying to a wound, ostomy, and continence nursing education program (WOCNEP)

Choose a WOCNEP. All programs are clinical and didactic!

Complete the program

SIT FOR THE CERTIFICATION EXAM IN EACH SPECIALTY AREA OF PRACTICE

BECOME A CERTIFIED WOC NURSE!

