



University of
Northern Iowa

NURSING PROGRAM EXPANSION \$600,000

Launched in the fall of 2024, the BSN program aims to increase the nursing workforce in Iowa. The need for nurses in the state remains critical. As of August 2025, there were over 3,500 job postings on iowaworks.gov for registered nurses, by far the most than those for any other profession. Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses were seventh on the list, with over 480 job postings.

The first year the program was offered, it enrolled an initial cohort of 24 students. We anticipate growing the major and admitting 96 to 144 new students per academic year beginning fall 2026. UNI is requesting \$600,000 in FY 2027 state appropriations to support the growth and expansion of the program. This funding will allow us to hire more faculty and staff, as well as ensure the nursing students have access to state of the art medical equipment and continue to learn in an environment that models real clinical settings.



Top 10 Job Postings in Iowa, as of November 2025

Registered Nurses - 5,853
Customer Service Representatives - 1,232
Physicians, All Other - 1,204
Retail Salespersons - 950
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses - 793
Stockers and Order Fillers - 726
General and Operations Managers - 688
Fast Food and Counter Workers - 666
Nursing Assistants - 622
Physical Therapists - 621

Source: Iowa Workforce Development 2018-2028
Long-term Occupation Projections



BSN PROGRAM

- **Outcome-Focused Curriculum:** The program is built on an outcome-focused, competency-based framework that prepares graduates to be practice-ready and deliver safe, evidence-based care.
- **Integrated Teaching and Learning:** Faculty use an experiential, hands-on model that integrates theory and practice within specialized integrated classrooms. Each integrated classroom has its own dedicated simulation suite.
- **Technology-Enhanced Learning:** Advanced simulation and instructional technologies immerse students in realistic, high-fidelity clinical scenarios that promote situational awareness, adaptive problem-solving, and skills acquisition.
- **Comprehensive Simulation Facilities:** With the simulation center expansion, the program includes a total of eight high-fidelity simulation suites—two medical-surgical, two trauma, two critical care, one pediatric, and one labor and delivery.
- **Simulation Center Expansion:** The compact simulation center, opening in Spring 2026, is a state-of-the-art facility mirroring authentic healthcare environments.