

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING
STUDENT POLICIES

THE NORTHWOOD TECH NURSING PIN



Students graduating from the Northwood Tech ADN program traditionally plan and participate in a pinning ceremony. The Northwood Tech nursing pin is available for purchase at campus bookstores. The following explains the history and meaning of the tradition of the pinning ceremony.

On May 13, 1982, six Associate Degree Nursing students graduated from the WITC* campus at Rice Lake.

On June 3, 1982, ten students graduated from Ashland. The WITC* nursing cap and pin design were developed by these first nursing graduates.

The pinning ceremony is a celebration of tradition. The origin of pinning dates to the time of the Crusaders, 700 – 900 years ago.

The Pope urged Crusaders to wear a cross on their heads and badges on their breasts. Sometime later the Nightingale School of Nursing adopted a badge in this tradition.

* In August 2021, the college went through a rebranding and name change process. Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College was renamed Northwood Technical College.

The symbolism of the Northwood Tech nursing pin includes:

- The pin, as a badge, will identify Northwood Tech and signify your enrollment or membership in a particular program.
- The Nightingale lamp is a version of that which Florence Nightingale is said to have carried to the bedside of wounded soldiers during the Crimean wars.

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The Nightingale philosophy states that "Nursing is an art, the finest of the arts. It demands organized, practical and scientific training, and that is God's work." In 1874, Florence Nightingale said,

Shall we do everything in our power to become proficient; not only in knowing the signs and what is to be done, but in knowing the reason why of such signs and why such a thing is done? ...many say, "There is no time, the ward's work gives us no time!" But it is easy to degenerate into a mere drudgery about the wards, when we have good will to do it and are fonder of practical work than of giving ourselves the troubles of learning the reason why!

The nursing pin is a tribute to the meaning of nursing excellence—caring artfully and scientifically to meet the needs of individuals.