C
earing a career in medicine specialties nursing means that you choose to care about people. You will be the closest professional to your patient and their immediate advocate. You’ll learn the real-world of nursing in a way that can make you a better person, because you see first-hand the needs of these around you, and you choose to help. You will be part of the solution.

“Medicine specialties service is challenging, creative and motivating,” says Priscilla Mayeux RN, MSN, MBA, Clinical Director of Medicine Specialties at UNC Hospitals. “Our nurses are vital members of the interdisciplinary health care team, and have the decision-making autonomy to participate fully in managing patient care.”

Because of the diversity of medical problems and patients care needs within the medical service, there are opportunities for nurses to gain a wide array of professional experiences. At UNC Hospitals, particular specialty units within the service, ranging from six to 28 beds, include:

• Rural, Gastrointestinal and Family Practice

Excellent learning opportunities for new nurses and fast-paced challenges for experienced nurses to work shoulder-to-shoulder with an experienced nursing staff.

• Pulmonary and Intensive Care

Patients that are SIR positive, heart, respiratory diseases, as well as adults with cystic fibrosis. At UNC Hospitals, approximately 300 staff work in this service five days a week.

• Cardiology

Equipped to meet the needs of the general medicine and general pulmonology population, including physical therapy and occupational therapy. Provides care for seriously ill adults and children with cardiac disease.

• Respiratory ICU

Specialists in pulmonary care for patients with a variety of pulmonary diseases and medical diagnoses. A team approach provides opportunities for nurses to gain skills in both life and death.

• Medicine ICU

For critically ill patients with a wide range of medical and pulmonary diagnoses. Nurse provides quality, compassionate care in a supportive setting.

• Medicine Step-Down

An intermediate care unit providing a slightly lower level of care than an intensive care unit. This provides the opportunity to learn essential nursing skills while learning the basics of critical care nursing for a variety of medical diagnoses. Patients are accepted from oncology, renal, gastrointestinal, family medicine and pulmonary services.

• IV Therapy

Provides specialized care in the assessment of venous access requirements. Teach patients to use their venous access devices using state-of-the-art-machines, in both adults and child.

EDUCATION
Registered nurses may graduate from a state-approved school of nursing and pass a national licensing exam. Entry-level nurses may earn bachelor’s degrees, offered by four-year colleges and universities, associate degrees that are offered by community colleges (and take about two years) or diplomas that are offered by hospital-based programs.

SKILLS REQUIRED
A strong background in mathematics and science, critical thinking, problem solving and leadership skills, resource management, strong interpersonal and communication skills, and flexibility.

RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

• Math (three courses in math – algebra, algebra II, and geometry) or a higher level math course

• Science (three science courses – one biological science, one physical science and one lab course)

• English (four English units

• Social Studies (two units – at least U.S. History)

• Foreign Language (two years, Spanish preferred)

FINANCIAL AID

A variety of grants, scholarships, loans and work-study programs are available for college students. North Carolina has two state-funded financial aid programs, especially for students enrolled in Nursing. One is the Nurse Scholar Program, which is a scholarship/loan grant program and the other is the Nurse Education Scholarship Loan Program, which is based on financial need. To learn more about both options, visit the N.C. State Education Assistance Authority web site (www.ncseaa.edu) and click on nursing programs.

UNC-CHAPPELL HILL SCHOOL OF NURSING

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing is a leader in preparing nurses for the workforce. It is ranked among the nation’s leading public nursing schools. Since its founding in 1896, the School has been recognized for its academic programming. UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing was established as part of the NC System of Higher Education in 1939. It was the first state-run school of nursing in the nation.

The School is located in the state’s capital city, Raleigh, and serves the rapidly growing population of Wake County, North Carolina’s most populous county.

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