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SCHOOL to Career

focus on jobs in Nursing

Future job opportunities

As baby boomers age, the demand for nursing services will increase. Nursing is a competitive career with an unlimited range of opportunities for licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses. Employment of nursing assistants is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations in response to an emphasis on rehabilitation and the long-term care needs.

Where/how to get training

Registered nurses (RNs) must graduate from a state-approved school of nursing and pass a national licensing exam. Entry level nurses may earn a bachelor's degree, offered by four-year colleges and universities; an associate's degree offered by community colleges (and takes about two years); or diplomas which are offered by three hospital-based programs in North Carolina.

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) must complete a state-approved educational program and pass a licensing examination. A nursing program leading to a diploma in practical nursing is generally a year and a half in length and is offered by post secondary educational institutions such as community or vocation/technical colleges.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) must graduate from a state-approved school of nursing and pass a national licensing exam.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses hold at least a Master's of Nursing or higher degree. Some fields also require a national certification examination and continued education.

Nursing Assistants, also known as nurse aides, provide a supportive role to nurses and other licensed professionals. Although nursing assistants are not licensed, they make great contributions to direct patient care and the healthcare industry in general. Nurse Assistants can be trained at many of North Carolina's community colleges or programs on the job. Students have the opportunity to become nursing assistants through Health Occupational programs at local high schools.

Career Opportunities:

Variety of Roles

Certified Nursing Assistant
Licensed Practical Nurse
Staff Nurse

Home Health Director
Nurse Manager

Nurse Researcher
Infection Control Nurse
Employee Health Nurse
Director of Nursing Services
Nursing Faculty Member
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Geriatric Nurse Practitioner

And many more...

Variety of settings

Hospitals

- Emergency
- Medical-Surgical
- Critical Care

Clinic/Physician's Office
Schools/Colleges/Universities
Long-term Care

Military
Hospice/Home Health
Industry and Manufacturing
Correctional Facility

Insurance Company/Pharmaceutical Company
And many more...



For more information on federal financial aid programs, call (800) 4-FEDAID

Nurses are important to the health care system, improving the quality of human life around the clock, 24 hours-a-day, seven days of the week, 365 days of the year. Nurses focus on how individuals and families respond to actual or potential health problems. Nurses are educated to anticipate and meet the needs of the whole person rather than just the presenting health problem. A nurse's knowledge of disease and illness is blended with the most up-to-date technologies and a caring approach to restore and maintain the health of an individual or family.

Registered Nurses (RN) care for individuals who are healthy and ill, of all ages and cultural backgrounds, and who have physical, emotional, psychological, intellectual, social, and spiritual needs.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) hold at least a Master's degree in their area of practice. There are four types of APRNs currently recognized in today's healthcare system:

- Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) are expert clinicians in a specialty area and may provide patient care, educate patients and families, consult with other members of the healthcare team and conduct research in their specialty practice area.
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) keep patients pain free during surgical, medical, dental or childbirth procedures.
- Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) manage pregnancy related care of women and newborns.
- Nurse Practitioners (NP) provide medical care to individuals and families. A nurse practitioner may diagnose, treat and manage many common and chronic health conditions.

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) care for sick, injured, and disabled persons, under the supervision of registered nurses or physicians.

Supportive Roles:

Nursing Assistants (NAs) assist in the care of patients under the direct supervision of licensed health professionals. Typical nurse aide tasks may include bathing, dressing, or assisting with hygienic needs; serving meals and feeding patients; moving patients to and from treatment rooms or assisting them to walk; and observing patients' physical, mental and emotional conditions and reporting changes to the nursing or medical staff.



Dolly Bryan-Berge, RN, Staff Nurse, Pitt County Memorial Hospital, prepares for a helicopter mission in her former role as a flight nurse.

Ben Galang, a previous Fayetteville Technical Community College nursing student shares with a patient the sound of his heartbeat.



Avis Faison, RN, Obstetrics and Gynecology Nurse, Nash General Hospital, Rocky Mount, shares in a new mother's pride and admiration while preparing mom and baby for discharge.



Gina Harless, RN, Cardiac Nurse, Northeast Medical Center of Concord, discusses healthy cardiovascular habits and lifestyles with a patient.



What you wear



While some nurses wear the familiar "white uniform - pants and a top or a dress," most wear colorful outfits more expressive of their personality and interests. Depending on their role, some wear scrubs, lab coats, street clothes and even business suits. While styles vary, all nurses wear comfortable shoes.



Want to know more?

Visit the following websites:

NC Center for Nursing

www.nursesnc.org

North Carolina Board of Nursing

www.ncbon.org

National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses

www.nflpn.org

NC Division of Facility Services

<http://facility-services.state.nc.us>

Jobs in this field

Type	Median Salary	Type	Median Salary
Nursing Assistant	\$18,404	Critical Care RN	\$43,733
LPN	\$25,071	Charge Nurse/Shift Supervisor	\$48,820
Medical Office RN	\$31,296	Head Nurse/Unit Manager	\$49,695
Occupational Health RN	\$36,596	Nurse Practitioner	\$72,408
Staff RN	\$37,549	Vice President, Patient Care Services	\$95,009
Public Health RN	\$40,656	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	\$101,380
Emergency Room RN	\$42,337		

*North Carolina Center for Nursing, calculated using ERI (Economic Research Institute) Salary Assessment Series Software.

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.

Activities

1. Visit the North Carolina Center for Nursing website at: www.nursesnc.org. Learn the various roles nurses may perform and the variety of settings in which they may work.
2. **Shadow a Nurse** - Contact your local hospital, doctor's office, health clinic, school nurse, camp nurse or any nurse you know, and ask if you can shadow them for a day or half day - whatever their schedule allows. Document all the activities you observe. Answer the following questions:
 - a. What roles does the nurse perform?
 - b. How does the nurse incorporate science and math into his or her roles?
 - c. Would you want to work as a nurse? Why or Why not?
3. **Earn First Aid certification** - This course is usually offered through the American Red Cross. Visit the North Carolina Red Cross website at: www.redcross.org/nc/ncarc/ to find your local Red Cross.

Recommended High School Classes

Math (three courses in math - algebra I, 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 one US History)

Foreign Language (two years, Spanish preferred)

Health Occupation Classes

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