



Major to Career Guide

Nursing

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Introduction

Nursing is defined as “the art and science of human caring.” Typically concerned with caring for the “whole person,” Registered Nurses (RN's) provide for the physical, mental, and emotional needs of their patients. Hospital nurses constitute the largest group of nursing care and carry out the medical regimen prescribed by physicians. Nursing-home nurses manage nursing care for residents with conditions ranging from bone fractures to Alzheimer's disease. Community health and public health nurses care for patients in clinics, schools, retirement and life care communities, and other community health settings. Private duty nurses provide nursing services to patients needing care on a consistent basis. Office nurses assist physicians in a private practice, clinic, and health maintenance organizations. Occupational health or industrial nurses provide nursing care to employees in industry and government.

What are some potential occupations?

- Community health nurse
- Geriatric Nurse/Family Health Nurse
- Health Educator/Midwife/Hospital Nurse
- Nurse Anesthetist
- Nurse Practitioner
- Long Term Care Nurse
- Occupational Health Nurse
- Occupational/Rehabilitation Nurse
- Private Duty Nurse
- Psychiatric Health Nurse
- Pediatric Nurse
- School Health Nurse
- Supervisor, Manager, or Administrator in Health-Care Agencies
- Hospital Nurse, all specialty areas
- Industrial Nurse/Registered Nurse
- Nurse Instructor

What are some of the job tasks?

- Observe, assess, diagnose, record symptoms, responses and progress of patient's health
- Instruct patients and their families in proper health care
- Help individuals and groups take steps to improve or maintain their health
- Make independent judgments in determining priorities
- Administer medications
- Assist in recovery and rehabilitation
- Develop and implement health-care plans
- Supervise LPN's, aides, and orderlies
- Assist with health exams and inoculations
- Collaborate with physicians, health administrators and auxiliary care workers

What are some desirable personal qualities?

- Caring, empathetic, and patient
- Physical and emotional stamina
- Ability to direct or supervise
- Be able to follow orders exactly
- Ability to cope with serious illness

Additional information

Nurses must graduate from a state or nationally accredited program and must pass a national examination administered by each state.

Licenses must be periodically renewed and in some states, continuing education is a requirement for renewal. Licenses may be transferred to all other states.

Since most research, consulting, teaching, administrative, and clinical specializations in nursing require graduate degrees, individuals considering these areas should consider obtaining the Bachelor of Science/Nursing Degree since it is the path to graduate school.

Nursing students receive supervised clinical experience in a variety of specialty areas of health care. This occurs toward the end of their training program.

Volunteer work, part-time jobs, and internships with health care agencies provide nursing care work experience and can lead to full-time job opportunities.

Who hires?

- Community Nursing Homes
- Diagnostic Centers
- Government Health Care Agencies
- Health Care Agencies and Clinics
- Health Maintenance Organizations
- Home Health Care Agencies
- Hospice Care Agencies
- Hospitals
- Long-term Care Agencies
- Mental Health Agencies
- Nursing Health Centers
- Out-Patient Care Centers
- Physician's Office
- Rehabilitation Agencies
- School/Daycare Centers

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