

# Nursing is AMAZING!

## AN OVERVIEW - Present and Future

Exciting and rewarding career opportunities exist for men and women entering the profession. As healthcare access continues to be on the forefront of America's agenda, nursing will be increasingly called upon to help provide a broader range of services due to a variety of factors.

- As **healthcare delivery shifts** from an illness focus to a health promotion focus, nurses will be providing care across the entire health continuum.
- As healthcare technology advances, more individuals will be living with **chronic conditions** that require nursing care.
- Hospitals and outpatient settings will have increasingly **complex patient care demands** that require registered nurses (RNs) prepared with strong clinical judgment skills.
- Expanding **healthcare technology** and scientific breakthroughs will require increased patient care monitoring by RNs in diverse settings.
- The explosion of healthcare knowledge brings **specialization** to the nursing role. There are over 50 specialties in which RNs can become certified.
- A growing **complexity of environmental and social problems** creates an increased need for nursing services.
- As **life spans increase**, more health services will be needed. It is projected 12% of the U.S. population will be over age 85 by the year 2030. The population age 65 years and older will double between 2000 and 2030. Average life expectancy has reached 75.5 years.

## NURSING'S FOCUS

- Nurses 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.
- Nursing is a profession that combines physical science, social science, nursing theory, and technology in the care of others.
- Nurses provide complex patient care monitoring and evaluation.
- Nurses are the coordinators of patient care.
- Nurses provide patient education.
- Nurses apply research in practice.

## NURSING'S PROFILE

- Nursing is the nation's largest healthcare profession with 2.9 million nurses; 83% are employed in nursing.
- The current RN workforce is aging. Retirements are expected to peak in the next decade adding to the demand for RNs.
- Nursing students account for 52% of all health profession students in the United States.
- Nurses comprise the largest single component of hospital staff, are the primary providers of hospital care, and deliver most of the nation's long-term care.



Collaboration for: Promotion Education Advancement of Nursing Careers

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**CAREER PATHS** - Individual nursing practice is determined by the career path selected and is dependent upon education, experience, work setting and geographical location. The demand for master’s and doctorally prepared nurses for advanced practice, clinical specialties, teaching, and research continues to increase.

CAREER PATH	ROLE	RANGE OF STARTING SALARY
<b>Clinician</b> <b>Clinical Staff Nurse</b>	Provides scientific, psychological, and technological knowledge in the care of patients and families	\$40,000-50,000
	<b>Advanced Practice Nurse</b>	Provides primary care and specialized advanced nursing services to patients and families
	Includes <b>clinical specialist, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife</b>  and <b>nurse anesthetist</b>	\$60,000-88,000/yr  \$90,000-113,000
<b>Educator</b> Instructor* College/University Professor*  Clinical Instructor Staff Development Specialist Patient Education Specialist	Utilizes educational methodologies to present current information in patient care settings, universities, and communities Positions may include instructor, professor, university or college administrator, chair, or dean  <i>*May be a ten month appointment in an academic setting</i>	\$40,000-90,000/yr
<b>Researcher</b>	Utilizes statistical methodologies to discover or establish facts, principles or relationships	\$60,000-\$90,000/yr+
<b>Administrator/Manager</b>	Coordinates the use of human, financial, and technological resources to provide patient care services. Positions may include facilitator, manager, director, chief nurse executive, or vice president. Salary is commensurate with scope of responsibility	\$60,000-\$120,000+

**CAREER DIVERSITY AND PRACTICE SETTINGS** - Nurses may follow their personal and professional interests by working with any group of people, in any setting, at any time. Some nurses have combined two careers, i.e., nurse attorney or informatics specialist – nursing and computer technology. The settings in which nurses work are reflective of the specialties in nursing. While 56% of RNs are employed in hospitals, increasingly nurses are delivering care in a wide range of settings as listed below:

HOSPITAL SETTINGS	NON-HOSPITAL SETTINGS	
<b>Critical Care</b> <b>Emergency</b> <b>Maternal/Child Care</b> <b>Medical:</b> Cardiology, Diabetes, Gastroenterology, Gerontology, Nephrology, Neurology, Oncology, Pulmonary, Rehabilitation, Renal, Rheumatology, Urology <b>Operating Room/Recovery Room</b> <b>Pediatrics</b> <b>Psychiatric/Mental Health</b> <b>Surgical:</b> Burn, Cardiovascular, Otorhinolaryngology (Ear/Nose/Throat), Gastroenterology, Orthopedics, Plastic/Reconstructive, Transplant	<b>Public/Community Health</b> <b>Mental Health Agencies</b> <b>Home Healthcare</b> <b>Physician’s Office</b> <b>Occupational Health</b> <b>Extended Care Facilities</b> <b>Clinics/Health Centers</b> <b>Outpatient Surgery Centers</b> <b>Community Schools, Day Care Centers</b> <b>Independent Practice, Consultants</b> <b>Schools of Nursing</b> <b>Senior Centers, Shelters, Churches</b>	<b>Insurance</b> <b>Research Centers</b> <b>Hospices</b> <b>Military Branches</b>

## JOB MARKET

- RN positions are open for new graduates and experienced nurses in a variety of settings and specialties
- Increasing inpatient days and ambulatory care delivery demand RN expertise
- Heightened recognition of the RN role leads to expanding opportunities

**SALARIES/WORK ENVIRONMENT** – Salaries are competitive with other professions and attracting more men and women into nursing. In the central Indiana area, a new graduate starts out at approximately \$40,000 – 50,000 per year. Nationally, the average annual earnings of RNs employed full-time is \$59,730. The nurse who works evenings, nights, or weekends receives added compensation. Nurses choosing careers in advanced practice, administration, education, and research may earn more, depending on the amount of responsibility associated with their roles.

QUALIFICATIONS	PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEMANDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledgeable, articulate, competent—caring and compassionate</li> <li>• Problem-solver, critical thinker, decision maker</li> <li>• Responsible, accountable, and adaptable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good health and stamina</li> <li>• Excellent interpersonal skills</li> <li>• Developed coping skills; ability to work well under pressure, and adaptable to change</li> </ul>

**WORKING CONDITIONS** – Working conditions have changed significantly in recent years. A variety of scheduling options are offered that are compatible in meeting the personal needs of the nurse and are dependent on the role and setting.

- Flexible work schedules; health, education, and retirement benefits
- Progressive healthcare environments
- State-of-the-art technology
- Potential exposure to hazards, i.e., drugs, physical injuries, infectious diseases, environmental

## HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

COURSES	DESCRIPTION	YEARS
English	Verbal and written communication skills essential	4
Math	Algebra necessary for success in chemistry and medication administration; Geometry.	2-4
Science	Biology and Chemistry essential; Physics recommended; Computer Science	2-4
Social Studies	Psychology; Sociology; History; Government; Economics are all recommended	3-4
Foreign Language	Highly recommended	2

## References:

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, (2007, May). *Occupational Employment and Wages for 2006*. Access on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ocwage.pdf>
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing, *2006 Nursing Shortage Resource*, on the Internet at [www.aacn.nche.edu](http://www.aacn.nche.edu)
- Health Resources and Services Administration. (February 2007). *The Registered Nurse Population: Findings from the March 2004 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

## UNDERGRADUATE NURSING PROGRAMS - ENTRY LEVEL PROGRAMS

TYPE OF PROGRAM	SETTING	LENGTH OF PROGRAM	ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS
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**Associate Degree      College or University      Usually 2 academic years      ASN, AD, or ADN**

*Role Preparation: Prepares graduates competent to serve in entry level nursing positions and qualified to provide direct care to individuals and families with well-defined health needs in a variety of care settings. The ASN curriculum includes courses in the physical and behavioral sciences.*

- ASN graduates have a variety of career opportunities. They have also completed basic course requirements for entering an RN-BSN completion program.

**Baccalaureate Degree      College or University      Usually 4 academic years      BSN**

*Role Preparation: Prepares graduates to provide direct and indirect nursing care to individuals, families, groups, and communities in a variety of settings that span the continuum of care. The BSN curriculum includes courses in the physical sciences, behavioral sciences and humanities. Emphasis on communication, health education and promotion, leadership, and research is included. Clinical experiences occur in acute, chronic, and wellness settings.*

- BSN graduates have greater career options and advancement opportunities in nursing. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing also serves as the foundation for graduate study.
- Accelerated degree options are available to individuals with a prior degree in another discipline.

**Graduates of both programs are eligible to take the state board examination to become licensed as a registered nurse.**

## GRADUATE NURSING EDUCATION - ADVANCED PROGRAMS

**Master's Degree      College or University      2-3 years post Bachelor's Degree full-time; 4-6 years part-time      MSN**

*Role Preparation: Prepares graduates for advanced nursing roles, including clinical specialist, nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, educator, and administrator.*

**Doctoral Degree      College or University      3 years post Master's Degree; 5 years post Bachelor's Degree full-time; part-time study is available.      ND, DNP, or PhD**

*Role Preparation: Prepares graduates to be scholarly researchers. Graduates may become nurse researchers, advanced practitioners, university teachers, consultants, health policy analysts.*



For lists of colleges and universities with schools of nursing:

- [www.nursing2000inc.org](http://www.nursing2000inc.org)
- [www.nsna.org](http://www.nsna.org)
- [www.nlnac.org](http://www.nlnac.org)
- [www.aacn.nche.edu](http://www.aacn.nche.edu)