

I'm a nurse.

Now what?

After graduating from an approved nursing program, new nurses receive on-the-job training in hospitals and other healthcare settings through orientation programs and in-service education. All new nurses are encouraged to ask questions and become involved in as many aspects of their profession as possible. More experienced nurses and nursing supervisors provide guidance and support to new nurses and help them become comfortable in their new career.

As a nurse, you will discover a career filled with endless personal and professional rewards, and you will be providing a critical service to people in need within their community.



northwest arkansas
Nursing Education
c o n s o r t i u m

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For more information about nursing, nursing
scholarships, links to key nursing websites and
the NWA Nursing Education Consortium,
visit our website at

www.nwansged.org

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Nursing

A Compassionate Career



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YOU could be a nurse!

Few careers offer more personal and professional rewards than nursing. As a nurse, you spend your life helping others, using skills that combine scientific knowledge and education with compassion and caring.

Nursing is one of the nation's largest professions, with more than 2.5 million registered nurses. Many more will be needed in the future. Nurses make up the largest single component of any hospital staff. They are the primary providers of clinical and hospital patient care and also supervise the nation's nursing home care, while working in a variety of other settings as well. As the nation's population ages, there will continue to be a growing demand for nurses.

WHAT do nurses do?

Extensive education that blends science and technology with the art of caring and compassion results in a fast-paced, well-paid and rewarding career. Each day, nurses utilize the science they learned in nursing school, and continuing education courses keep them informed of the latest in medical technology and nursing advances. Nurses work closely with doctors and other healthcare professionals, and are advocates for patients and families.

Some of the jobs registered nurses perform include:

- **Assessment.** Nurses gather information about a patient's physical condition as well as other factors, such as emotional state, lifestyle, etc.
- **Analysis.** Nurses help identify the patient's problems and needs.
- **Planning.** Problems are addressed and specific goals for improvement are set.
- **Implementation.** The nursing plan is put into effect. Nurses may administer medications and treatments, but they also teach patients how to care for themselves.
- **Evaluation.** Plans are reviewed and modified on a regular basis.

Persons who excel as nurses exhibit traits that include leadership, time management and organizational skills; people skills; problems-solving skills; flexibility; and patience.

PREPARING for a nursing career

Nursing schools require a high school diploma and an understanding of high school English, algebra, chemistry, biology, physics and psychology. An understanding of computers and medical technology is also an asset. High school students may begin taking general college-level education courses to meet pre-nursing requirements through Concurrent Enrollment. Volunteering at a local hospital or other healthcare facility is strongly encouraged.

NURSING school

All schools within the Nursing Education Consortium are approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN). Classroom courses provide instruction in required sciences, nursing theory and practice, and the humanities. Students also receive supervised hands-on clinical experience in hospitals and other healthcare settings.

Nursing students must exhibit good time management and study habits, excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Confidence, determination and an eagerness to learn are personality traits that will carry nursing students to a successful career of helping and healing others.

There is a range of education and skill level opportunities available in nursing. One year of education in basic nursing techniques and direct patient care qualifies the student to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), who works under the supervision on a Registered Nurse (RN) or physician. To become an RN, students take part in a two to four year educational program. Additional career options include advance practice nursing through graduate education at the masters or doctoral level (MSN, PhD, DNP, EdD).

Nurses are licensed by the ASBN when they pass the appropriate national exam by The National Council of State Boards of Nursing.



JOB market

There is a significant shortage of nurses today, and the demand for new nurses is expected to grow in the immediate future due to the aging population, advances in medical science that help people live longer, and the aging of the current nursing workforce. Nurses today are almost guaranteed jobs right out of college and can be assured of a secure career far into the future.

INCOME potential

For the latest income and career information, check out the Nursing Career Ladder at www.nwansged.org.

HOW to get started

For details on nursing school admission, call the Nursing Directors:

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