

NURSING

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

STAFF NURSING

Hospital Specialties Include:

- Pediatrics
- Surgical
- Emergency
- Critical Care
- Maternity
- Women's Health
- Newborn Intensive Care
- Cancer Treatment
- Psychiatric/Mental Health
- Operating Room/Recovery Room
- Various Others
- Occupational or Industrial Health

EMPLOYERS

Hospitals

- Clinics and medical centers
- Physicians' offices and medical groups
- Outpatient surgery centers
- Home health agencies
- Extended care facilities:

 - Nursing homes
 - Rehabilitation centers
 - Hospices

- Psychiatric hospitals and mental health agencies
- Educational institutions
- Large corporations

STRATEGIES

Gain experience through externship or internship programs.

- Work or volunteer in healthcare and medical settings during summers and breaks.
- Take electives in areas such as wellness, holistic health, medical ethics, and death and dying.
- Develop good organizational skills and the ability to handle stress.
- Develop patience, ability to work with both patients and families for long periods, and good listening skills.
- Be prepared to work nights, weekends, and holidays in a hospital setting.
- Obtain a master's degree for positions such as nurse practitioner, clinical specialist, or nurse administrator.
- Cultivate managerial skills for head nurse or other supervisory positions.

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Home Health
- Rural Nursing
- Health Education

- Public and private schools
- Daycare centers
- Mental health facilities
- State and local health departments
- Home health care agencies
- Senior centers
- Nurse-run clinics
- Religious organizations
- Social service agencies

- Develop knowledge and skills in management, decision-making, mediation, teaching, counseling, speaking, and writing.
- Gain experience in the ability to handle emergencies, work independently, and be flexible.
- Develop expertise in first aid procedures.
- Expand knowledge of health issues related to age, cultures, religions, ethics, and government policies.
- Obtain a master's degree for nurse practitioner positions.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

- Temporary Staffing
- Travel Nursing
- Personal Services Contracting
- Private Duty
- Midwifery

- Healthcare staffing agencies
- Travel companies
- Businesses and organizations with temporary needs
- Private households

- Gained the required years of experience.
- Learn to work autonomously and make decisions independently.
- Be prepared to move frequently to various locations either locally or abroad.
- Become flexible and adaptable.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

- Staff Nursing
- Administration
- Policy Development
- Research

Government health agencies including:

- Public Health Service
- Indian Health Service
- Veterans Administration
- Peace Corps
- VISTA
- Armed services
- Prisons

- Define an area of interest since government work offers a variety of practices.
- Plan on graduate study in teaching, research, or administration for advancement.
- Become familiar with other cultures, languages, health systems and beliefs.
- Be prepared for combat nursing in armed services.

EDUCATION

- Teaching
- Educational Administration

- Teaching hospitals
- Colleges and universities
- Schools of nursing
- Wellness centers
- Public school systems
- Community education programs

- Develop patience, sensitivity to the needs of young adults as well as patients, and the ability to accept responsibility for the actions of others.
- Take courses in the principles and practices of teaching.
- Earn an advanced degree to teach at the college or university level.
- Gain experience in public speaking.

NURSING RESEARCH

- Large hospitals and medical centers
- Colleges and universities
- Centers for nursing research
- National Institute for Nursing
- Pharmaceutical companies

- Gain experience with research through supervised independent study or class projects.
- Develop curiosity, analytical thinking, attention to detail, persistence, good writing skills, and an understanding of statistics.
- Obtain a Ph.D.

TELEHEALTH

- Call centers
- Private Offices
- Clinics
- HMO's
- Hospitals

- Work in other practices for five to ten years to gain the necessary experience.
- Develop good communication skills and the ability to make important decisions quickly.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

- Embassies
- Military bases
- National or international government agencies
- Private voluntary organizations
- Church-related mission services
- World Health Organization

- Consider advanced education as a clinical nurse specialist or nurse practitioner to be more marketable.
- Learn a foreign language and an appreciation for other cultures.
- Inquire about the need for additional preparation in religious studies or similar courses.
- Research nursing requirements in other countries.

OTHER AREAS

- Insurance
- Underwriting and Claims
- Sales
- Product Management
- Quality Assurance
- Writing
- Law
- Healthcare Administration
- Information Management
- Patient Advocacy
- Forensic Nursing

- Insurance companies
- Hospitals
- HMO's
- Business and industry:
- Pharmaceutical
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Medical marketing companies
- Law firms
- Medical and health publications
- Healthcare websites
- Healthcare advertising agencies
- Public relations firms
- Professional associations

- Combine interest nursing and healthcare with another field by earning appropriate graduate degrees or gaining relevant experience.
- Minor in business or communications as an undergraduate.
- Develop strong computer skills and an understanding of business practices.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Nursing is the largest healthcare field. Three out of five nurses work in hospitals. Many nurses work part-time.
- Nursing combines science and technology with the desire to help people. One must enjoy helping people of all types and backgrounds.
- Nursing requires both physical stamina and emotional stability. Nurses must be able to follow orders and direct others.
- Earn a master's degree to prepare for advanced practice nursing including: clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, nurse anesthetist, and administration. Earn a doctoral degree for research or teaching at a university.
- All states regulate nursing by requiring licensure.