



NURSE

JOB DESCRIPTION

Nurses provide care and assistance for people who are ill, injured, or suffering from health problems. They administer treatments and therapies, plan patient care, and provide advice and practical support. There are opportunities to specialize and work at different locations, including hospitals, health centers, schools, and hospices, as well as in private practices.



SALARY

Licensed practical nurse ★★☆☆☆
Nurse practitioner ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Great demand for nurses across the world • Numbers expected to rise along with the aging population and advances in medical science • Pay levels very structured

RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **MEDICAL DOCTOR** *see pp. 276–277*
- ▶ **MIDWIFE** *see pp. 280–281*
- ▶ **HOME HEALTH NURSE** Visits the homes of patients who require care such as intermittent health monitoring, medication administration, and post-surgical wound care.
- ▶ **SCHOOL NURSE** Works in schools to conduct health checks, teach about diet and exercise, and administer medication and care for children during the school day.

+

**There are more
nurses than any
other role in the
health care profession.**

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Biology • Health and social service • Caring for people • Science • Psychology • Sociology • Medicine and pharmaceuticals



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS You need a degree in nursing. You must also pass a national licensing exam and receive continuing-education credits yearly.



LIFESTYLE Nurses usually work a regular number of hours overall. However, this includes shifts in the evenings, overnight, and on weekends.



LOCATION Nurses work out of hospitals, day care centers, schools, or hospices. They may also see patients for home visits or talk to children in schools.



THE REALITIES Nursing can be physically and emotionally demanding. Financial rewards improve with further qualifications and increased responsibility.

CAREER PATHS

Depending on where you study, you may need to choose a specialty during your degree, although you can usually change direction later. Experienced nurses are valued in hospital management and public health roles.

ASSISTANT Working as an assistant can provide useful experience before you apply for a nursing degree program.



GRADUATE You must have a nursing degree to register as a nurse. The course can take four years to complete and includes supervised clinical time.



LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

Takes samples, removes or replaces dressings, and performs other health checks. Doctors rely heavily on the help of practice nurses to support them.



PEDIATRIC NURSE

Works with children of all ages to provide health care in children's homes and hospitals.



REGISTERED NURSE

Most nurses begin work with the general adult population, where there are the largest number of job vacancies. They can then specialize.



HOSPICE NURSE

Provides supportive care to people who are terminally ill and works with their families to plan end-of-life responsibilities.



PSYCHIATRIC NURSE

Helps patients in their recovery from mental health conditions. They administer appropriate medication and work with patients to help them lead fuller, more independent lives.



NURSE PRACTITIONER

Very experienced nurse, with advanced education and clinical training. Many focus in a certain area, like neonatal or psychiatric health.

SKILLS GUIDE



Good communication skills to help when working with people from different backgrounds.



The ability to work successfully as part of a team in this busy, demanding profession.



Natural compassion and empathy when providing support to patients and their families.



A sense of humor to help motivate patients suffering from challenging conditions.



Physical strength and good stamina when moving patients and equipment.