

Nursing Education

Nursing is the art and science of caring, healing, treating, curing and educating patients of all ages in diverse health care environments. Nursing is committed to delivering holistic patient care, preserving health, improving nursing practices and patient outcomes and developing competencies for advanced practice, management, and research. Nurses play a pivotal role in meeting the challenges of the complex health care delivery system.

Education:

Admission requirements and procedures for study and entry into professions in the US vary from those in home countries of international students.

Undergraduate:

Basic study for the nursing profession in the U.S. takes place at the undergraduate level. The Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN), Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), and a diploma are three entry options to Registered Nursing (RN). The BSN is a four-year degree program offered by universities and colleges while the ADN degree offered by community and junior colleges is a 2 year degree program. Diploma programs administered in hospitals take 2- 3 years to complete. The undergraduate curriculum focuses on the sciences and principles of nursing practice with coursework in anatomy, biology, chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology, physiology, nutrition, behavioral sciences and the liberal arts, along with supervised experiential training in hospitals and other varied health care settings.

Graduate:

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree prepares nurses for leadership, advanced clinical practice specialties and doctoral study. Areas of specialties include Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Administrator, Adult Health Nursing, Primary Nursing, Nurse Anesthesia, and Certified Nurse Mid-Wives among others.

The traditional research Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree prepares nurses for academia or research and the recently initiated Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree prepares nurses to advance their knowledge and competencies and attain leadership positions in clinical practice, administration and translational research.

Joint degrees may include MSN/MBA, MSN/Ed.D, MSN/MHA, MSN/MPH, MSN/JD.

NursingCAS is an online application service for students applying to nursing programs in the U.S. For the list of participating nursing schools and application procedures, please go to <http://nursingcas.org>.

Note: Students are advised to look up individual nursing program websites for academic eligibility, admission requirements and procedures. If the nursing school of your choice is not among those participating in the NursingCAS, then apply directly to the respective school.

Choosing a nursing program:

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) are recognized accreditation agencies for baccalaureate nursing programs in the U.S. Also be sure that the nursing school is approved by the State Board of Nursing.

Seeking admissions to accredited nursing schools and programs is competitive. Learn the admissions requirements, trends and current developments in the profession to identify programs that meet your preferences and goals. International students should consider acceptability and recognition of such programs in their home country.



EducationUSA Centers provide advising services and a diverse collection of materials to assist students in their search for appropriate programs. To find the nearest EducationUSA Advising Center, visit www.educationusa.info/centers.php

Nursing Licensure: Nurses must be licensed through the nursing board of the state where they wish to practice. After completion of an accredited nursing program, students must take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Foreign educated nurses who wish to practice in the U.S. must complete the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) certification program, which in most US states is required prior to the NCLEX – RN exam. Licensure requirements vary by state. Students must contact the relevant state board of nursing for specific requirements. Candidates for CGFNS certification must take the TOEFL to demonstrate English language proficiency if they belong to countries where English is not the native language and the medium of instruction is not English in schools. For details see: <http://www.cgfns.org>

Occupations: Registered Nurses (RN) may consider opportunities as a general duty nurse, critical care nurse, cardiovascular nurse, ambulatory nurse, home health nurse, ophthalmic nurse, pediatric nurse, public health nurse, women’s health nurse, informatics nurse, occupational health nurse, case management nurse, infection control nurse, school nurse, public health nurse, legal nurse, emergency or trauma nurse, diabetes management nurse, nurse executive, consultant, faculty, researcher or engage in business. Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) could work as a clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, certified nurse mid-wives and certified nurse anesthetist.

Organizations affiliated with the study of Nursing:

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing www.aacn.nche.edu
- National Student Nurses Association www.nсна.org
- American Nurses Association <http://www.nursingworld.org/>
- National League for Nursing www.nln.org
- National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc (NLNAC) www.nlnac.org
- American Nurses Foundation <http://www.anfonline.org/>
- CGFNS International www.cgfns.org
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing www.ncsbn.org

Some journals related to the study of Nursing:

American Journal of Nursing, Journal of Nursing Administration, Journal of Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing, Journal of Clinical Nursing, Journal of Community Health Nursing, Nursing Research, Journal of Nursing Management, Nursing Ethics, Journal of Pediatric Nursing, Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal, Geriatric Nursing, Journal of Professional Nursing, Journal of Cancer Nursing

Undergraduate program search print and online resources

College Board, www.collegeboard.com Search for schools with the College Board’s online “College Maker.”
Read about specific majors and careers using the “Majors and Career Profiles” search
http://www.collegeboard.com/csearch/majors_careers/profiles/
College Handbook Peterson’s Four-Year Colleges

Graduate program search print and online resources

Peterson’s www.petersons.com Peterson’s Nursing Programs
Peterson’s Graduate Programs in Business, Education, Health, Information Studies, Law & Social Work; Book # 6

International students need to check with individual programs and funding institutions to ascertain eligibility for scholarships and financial aid.

References: www.aacn.nche.edu <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos083.htm>