

The image features a central blue oval containing the word "Nursing" in white. To the left of the oval is a thick, black, curved swoosh that points towards the bottom right. The background is white with several thin, light gray lines that form a series of overlapping, curved paths, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of motion or a stylized orbit.

Nursing

Staff Nursing

Specialties by work setting or type of treatment:

- Perioperative (operating rooms)
- Emergency/Trauma
- Critical care
- Ambulatory care
- Home health care
- Hospice and palliative care
- Occupational health
- Radiology
- Psychiatric-mental health
- Holistic/Complementary care

Specific health conditions:

- Oncology
- Rheumatology
- Diabetes management
- Addictions treatment
- HIV/AIDS care

Organ or body systems:

- Cardiovascular
- Gastroenterology
- Gynecology
- Dermatology
- Nephrology
- Orthopedic
- Urology
- Respiratory

Well-defined populations:

- Neonatology
- Pediatrics
- Adults
- Geriatrics

Advanced practice nursing:

- Clinical nurse specialist
- Nurse anesthetist
- Nurse midwife
- Nurse practitioner

Staff Nursing Employers

Hospitals

Clinics and medical centers

Physicians' offices and medical groups

Outpatient surgery centers

Ambulatory care centers

Home health agencies

Nursing care facilities

Rehabilitation centers

Hospices

Dialysis centers

Diabetes care clinics

Birth centers

Psychiatric hospitals and mental health agencies

Health maintenance organizations

Large corporations

Educational institutions

Summer camps

Correctional facilities

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Integrated health clinics

Staff Nursing Strategies

Work or volunteer in healthcare and medical settings during summers and breaks.

Shadow nurses in different settings to learn which ones hold the most appeal.

Gain experience through externship or internship programs.

Take electives in areas such as wellness, holistic health, medical ethics, and death and dying.

Get involved in student organizations and seek leadership roles.

Learn to be organized and to manage stress well.

Develop patience, the ability to work with both patients and families for long periods, and good listening skills. Learn to work effectively with people from different cultures, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Prepare to work nights, weekends, and holidays in a hospital setting.

Cultivate managerial skills for head nurse or other supervisory positions.

Many specialties exist and some nurses combine specialties, i.e., pediatric oncology.

Obtain a master's or doctoral degree for advanced practice nursing. Some specialties may also require certification.

Join relevant professional associations and plan to attend continuing education programs.

Community and Public Health

Health Education and Promotion

Disease Prevention: Specific populations include elderly, homeless, teen parents, tobacco users, those at risk for specific diseases, those at risk in specific areas (e.g., rural)

Community and Public Health Employers

State and local health departments

Home healthcare agencies

Public schools

Daycare centers

Mental health facilities

Senior centers

Nurse-run clinics

Religious organizations

Social service agencies

Wellness centers

Community education programs

Community and Public Health Strategies

Learn to relate well with people from a variety of backgrounds.

Plan to specialize in the needs of patients in vulnerable or underserved populations, i.e., rural health, elderly, homeless, tobacco-users, teen parents.

Develop knowledge and skills in management, decision-making, motivating, teaching, counseling, speaking, and writing, budget management and evaluation of program effectiveness.

Gain experience with handling emergencies, working independently, and demonstrating flexibility.

Expand knowledge of health issues related to age, cultures, religions, ethics, and government policies.

Some positions may require a master's degree in nursing, public health, or a related field.

Take continuing education courses in topics such as smoking cessation, nutrition and fitness, and stress management.

Independent Practice

Temporary staffing

Travel nursing

Personal services contracting

Private duty

Independent Practice Employers

Healthcare staffing agencies

Travel companies

**Businesses and organizations
with temporary needs**

Private households

Independent Practice Strategies

Develop flexibility and adaptability.

Gain years of experience in a hospital or other healthcare setting.

Learn to work autonomously and make decisions independently.

Be prepared to move frequently to various locations either locally or abroad for a career in travel nursing.

Government Services

Staff nursing

Administration

Policy development

Research

Government Services Employers

Government health agencies:

- **Public Health Service**
- **Indian Health Service**
- **Veterans Affairs**
- **Peace Corps**
- **VISTA**

Armed services

Correctional facilities

Government Services Strategies

Define an area of interest since government work offers a variety of practices.

Earn a master's or doctoral degree for positions involving research, policy development, or administration.

Become familiar with other cultures, languages, health systems, and beliefs.

Be prepared for combat nursing in armed services.

Other Nursing Areas

Nursing Research

Insurance:

- Underwriting and Claims

Sales

Product management

Quality assurance

Writing

Law

Forensic nursing

Healthcare administration

Information management

Patient advocacy

Case management

Other Nursing Areas Employers

Insurance companies

Hospitals

Health maintenance organizations

Law firms

Business and industry:

- **Pharmaceutical companies**
- **Medical equipment and supplies manufacturers**
- **Medical marketing firms**

Medical and health publications

Healthcare websites

Healthcare advertising agencies

Public relations firms

Professional associations

Other Nursing Areas Strategies

Combine interest in 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.

Gain experience as a staff nurse before taking expertise in another direction.

Demonstrate initiative and effective leadership.

Get involved with relevant professional associations.

General Nursing Information

Nursing is the largest healthcare field. Three out of five nurses work in hospitals and many work part-time. Because some patients require continual care, nurses work rotating shifts including nights, weekends, and holidays.

Nursing combines science and technology with the desire to help people. Healthcare professionals must be prepared to assist people of all types and backgrounds.

Nursing requires both physical stamina, emotional stability, and the abilities to follow orders and direct others.

Other qualities important to the field include orientation to detail, sympathy and concern, responsibility, and the ability to handle stress and emergency situations.

There are multiple educational paths to acquire the Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) degree and the Registered Nurse (RN) designation. Research alternatives such as accelerated BSN programs or Master's Entry programs.

Seek knowledge of continuing education opportunities and certification options through resources such as American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

Research loan repayment programs for nurses who work in critical shortage facilities.

All states regulate nursing by requiring licensure. Investigate individual state requirements, as well as the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) if planning to relocate.

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.

Many opportunities outside of traditional nursing exist for RN's who want to work in non-clinical roles. Research the skills, experiences, and degrees necessary to attain these positions.