

# NURSING

## What can I do with this degree?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### STRATEGIES

#### **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

- 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

- 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 healthcare 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.

<b>AREAS</b>	<b>EMPLOYERS</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>
<b><u>INDEPENDENT PRACTICE</u></b> 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.
<b><u>GOVERNMENT SERVICE</u></b> 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.
<b><u>EDUCATION</u></b> 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.
<b><u>NURSING RESEARCH</u></b>	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.
<b><u>TELEHEALTH</u></b>	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.