How to Become A Nurse

Your guide to pursuing the career of your dreams.
NATIONAL AVG. ENTRY-LEVEL BSN SALARY RANGE
STAFF NURSE (RN)
$51,382 - $82,713
*According to Salary.com
July 20, 2020

THE LARGEST HEALTHCARE OCCUPATION

RESEARCH & EXPLORE

LEARN THE LINGO
Browse www.discovernursing.com and other great websites to learn the difference between CNAs, LPNs, and RNs as well as ADN & BSN Degrees.

Make a List
Write down the areas of nursing that interest you. Here's a short list to get you going:

Talk to All the Nurses You Know
Find out likes and dislikes of the Job, Practice Areas, Typical Hours, and Professional Goals.
OBSEERVE

CHECK WITH YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR / ADVISOR
See if your school or county sponsors a job-shadowing day.

Call the Human Resources Dept. of any Hospital or Health Care Agency
Be sure to mention that you are considering a career in nursing and ask if it will be possible to shadow your area(s) of interest. (e.g. OB, ER, NICU, etc.) AND, while you are at it, ask if they have any scholarship opportunities for those seeking an education in nursing.

Schedule your Shadowing Experience and Enjoy Every Moment
Ask questions...(lots and lots of questions) while shadowing. Thank the nurse and facility for their cooperation and be sure to take a few moments to reflect upon your experience. Still curious about other specialties or environments? Repeat steps above.

Number of RN Vacancies Predicted from 2014-2022

1.2 Million

*According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Fastest Growing Occupation in the U.S.
DECIDE IF YOU WOULD RATHER SEEK A VOLUNTEER OR PAID HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

This usually depends upon the time you have available as well as opportunities available in your area.

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator within a Local Health Care Facility if You are Interested in Volunteering

Assist by visiting, feeding, and transporting patients or by participating in social activities and event planning. Try to find your niche - the more comfortable you are with patients now, the easier it will be when you are enrolled in a nursing program.

Look in to a local BNA (Basic Nurse Assistant) program if you are interested in a paid hands-on experience

Contact your local high school counselor or community college advisor to see if they offer a course in your area. Plan ahead as often there may be a wait list to participate in these programs. Keep certification current by working the required minimum hours each year upon licensure.
DETERMINE THE TYPE OF DEGREE YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE

Are you hoping to achieve an associate degree or a bachelor degree in nursing? An associate degree typically provides the quickest path into an entry-level RN position while a bachelor’s degree will provide you with the highest educational level for an entry-level RN position. A bachelor’s degree in nursing is often preferred or required for administrative and management-level nursing positions as well as those looking to go on with clinical practice (e.g. nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, etc.).

Determine the Key Elements you are Looking for In a Nursing School

It’s important to have a feel for the key elements you would like to experience in a nursing program. What factors will you find most influential? Location, convenience, flexibility, reputation of program, and cost are a few items that most students consider.

Find Out if You Will Meet Admission Criteria

Go to the websites of nursing schools and talk with admission counselors to determine what you will need to become admitted into the nursing program of your choice. Most schools require specific prerequisite coursework, a minimum GPA, and minimum admission test scores in order to become admitted. Talk with each school to determine your potential eligibility.
Let us help you pursue your passion!

Nursing

CLICK HERE to Check Out our COLLEGE PROFILE