

Nursing – Registered Nurse

Nature of the Profession

Registered nurses (RNs) care for the sick and injured and help people stay well. They observe, assess, and record symptoms, reactions, and progress. They assist physicians during treatments and examinations, administer medications, and assist in convalescence and rehabilitation.

Hospital nurses form the largest group of nurses. Most staff nurses provide bedside nursing care. Many advance to management positions.

In addition to hospitals, there are many employment opportunities for nurses: nursing home nurses, public health nurses, private duty nurses, office nurses, and occupational health or industrial nurses. Nurses with advanced degrees will be able to serve as nurse educators, nurse practitioners, or nurse scientists.

Registered nurses need to be prepared in critical thinking, leadership and health promotion. They must be able to handle the complex demands of providing professional nursing services in a wide variety of health care settings.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn complex science and math and the principles of nursing
- Skills with computers and other forms of technology
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Good numerical and verbal skills
- Ability to make decisions based on data and observations, and uphold standards of ethics and professional practice
- Ability to remain calm in emergency situations

EDUCATION

Educational programs range from a two-year associate degree to a four- or five-year bachelor's degree at colleges and universities, as well as master's and doctoral level degrees.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- BryanLGH College of Health Sciences – Lincoln (B)
- Central Community College – Grand Island (A)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (B, M)
- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (A, B, M, D)
- Creighton University School of Nursing – Hastings (B), Omaha (B, M)
- Grace University – Omaha (B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A)
- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (A)
- Midland Lutheran College – Fremont (B)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (B, M)
- Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln, Omaha (B, M)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- Union College – Lincoln (B)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney, Lincoln, Scottsbluff (B, M, D)
- Western Nebraska Community College - Scottsbluff (A)

LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a registered nurse (RN) must complete high school or equivalent, complete an approved program of registered nursing, and pass the NCLEX-RN exam.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Nurses Association

Web Address: www.ana.org

Nebraska Nurses Association

Web Address: www.nursingworld.org/SNAS/ne/index.htm