

LEVELS OF Nursing Degrees



DOCTORATE

- 3-6 years to complete
- Universities
- On campus or Online

SPECIALTIES

- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- Doctor of Nursing Science (DNSc)
- Doctor of Nursing Philosophy (PhD)



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN)

- 1.5-2 years to complete if applicant has Bachelors Degree
- Universities
- On campus or Online
- Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
- Nurse Educator

SPECIALTIES

- Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Certified Nurse Midwife
- School Nursing
- Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL)



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (BSN)

- 4 years to complete
- 1-2 years if applicant has Associates Degree in Nursing (ADN)
- Universities
- On Campus or Online



ASSOCIATES DEGREE IN NURSING (ADN)

- 2 years to complete
- Primarily at Community Colleges

YOU WANT TO BECOME A Nurse

You obtain a:

Associates Degree in Nursing (ADN)

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

You pass the NCLEX-RN
(National Council Licensure Exam
for Registered Nurses)

You pass the NCLEX-RN

You receive state RN licensure*

You begin working
as a Registered Nurse

You want to become an
Advanced Practice Nurse (APRN)

You obtain a Master of Science (MSN), specializing as a:**

Nurse Practitioner (NP)

- You pass the NP certification exam
- You apply for NP state license
- You start working as a NP

Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)

- You pass the CNS certification exam
- You apply for CNS state license
- You start working as a CNS

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)

- You pass the CRNA certification exam
- You apply for CRNA state license
- You start working as a CRNA

Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)

- You pass the CNM certification exam
- You apply for CNM state license
- You start working as a CNM

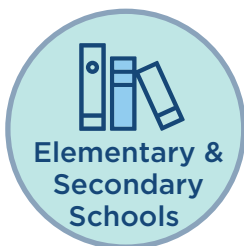
Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL)

- You pass the CNL certification exam
- You start working as a CNL

*Keep in mind that each state has its own regulatory board for licensing nurses, and its important to learn your state's requirement for nursing licensure. Learn more on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing website.

**For nurses seeking a doctorate degree, a PhD in nursing is also an option.

WHERE Nurses Work



1. The US Nursing Workplace. Trends in Supply and Education, Health Resources and Service Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, National Career for Health Workforce Analysis April 2013.
2. Occupational Employment Statistics, US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2012.
3. The Registered Nurse. Finding from 2018 National Sample Survey of registered Nurses, US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services, Health Resources and Service Administration, September 2010.