

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.

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

What can I do with this degree?

NURSING

Nursing Links:

[Nursing Schools](#)

[Sloan Foundation Careers in Science, Technology and Medicine](#)

[Health Management Careers](#)

[Nursing Careers](#)

[Nursing Career Profiles from Nurse Week](#)

[Nursing Society](#)

[National Student Nurses' Association](#)

[Careers in Nursing from American Nurses Association](#)

[NursingNet](#) (check out the online mentoring program)

[Registered Nurses from the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

AREAS

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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

EMPLOYERS

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

STRATEGIES

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.

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COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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Rural Nursing
Health Education

EMPLOYERS

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

STRATEGIES

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AREAS

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Temporary Staffing
Travel Nursing
Personal Services Contracting
Private Duty
Midwifery

EMPLOYERS

Healthcare staffing agencies
Travel companies
Businesses and organizations with temporary needs
Private households

STRATEGIES

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.

AREAS

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Staff Nursing
Administration

Policy Development
Research

EMPLOYERS

Government health agencies including: Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, Veterans Administration, Peace Corps, VISTA
Armed services
Prisons

STRATEGIES

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.

AREAS

EDUCATION

Teaching
Educational Administration

EMPLOYERS

Teaching hospitals
Colleges and universities
Schools of nursing
Wellness centers
Public school systems
Community education programs

STRATEGIES

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.

AREAS

NURSING RESEARCH

EMPLOYERS

Large hospitals and medical centers
Colleges and universities
Centers for nursing research
National Institute for Nursing
Pharmaceutical companies

STRATEGIES

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.

AREAS

TELEHEALTH

EMPLOYERS

Call centers
Private Offices
Clinics
HMO's
Hospitals

STRATEGIES

Work in other practices for five to ten years to gain the necessary experience.
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INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

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OTHER AREAS

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Sales
Product Management
Quality Assurance
Writing
Law
Healthcare Administration
Information Management
Patient Advocacy
Forensic Nursing

EMPLOYERS

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

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Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2005) UTK is an EEO/AA Title IX/504/ADA/ADEA Employer