

# NURSING

## AN OVERVIEW

Registered nurses work to care for ill patients as well as in promoting a healthy lifestyle. There are a variety of settings in which a nurse may choose to work and the setting often dictates the types of duties that he/she will perform. Nurses are employed in hospitals, clinics, government agencies, schools, nursing homes and a variety of other settings. Hospital nurses are usually assigned to a particular area and care for patients by monitoring vitals, charting patient progress, educating and discharge planning. Clinic nurses prepare patients to be seen by the physician through taking vitals, giving injections, and educating patients. Most nurses are required to work a combination of day, evening, overnight and weekend hours inclusive of holidays.

### NECESSARY SKILLS

- Accuracy
- Critical thinking skills to ensure the health & safety of patients
- Written & Verbal communication skills
- Computer literacy (charting)

### REQUIRED COURSEWORK & DEGREE

Must be registered as a CNA to begin coursework. Can earn 2 year Associate Degree in nursing or Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing. Both must pass national & state exams to become an RN.

- Coursework includes:
- Anatomy & Physiology
  - Chemistry
  - Microbiology
  - Liberal Arts Coursework

### TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS & INTERESTS

Social, like to teach, help or be of service in some way

Investigative, like work activities that have to do with ideas & thinking

### PATIENT CONTACT

75-90% of total time  
Varies depending on setting

### JOB OUTLOOK & WAGES

Expected to grow much faster than average through 2014,  
Entry-Level Salary: Approximately \$50,000 annually  
Additional job opportunities & increased salary for BSN's

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[www.iseek.org](http://www.iseek.org), [www.bls.gov/oco/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/), [www.myfirstday.org](http://www.myfirstday.org), [www.stkate.edu](http://www.stkate.edu)