

Opportunities in nursing vary from patient care, health education to administration.

As a nurse, you can choose to work in any part of the country.

If you have a specific nursing specialty in mind, you should find out what the requirements are before finalizing your decision on what school to attend.

Most common registered nursing programs are Associate degree and Baccalaureate degree programs.

## Tips for success

- Complete High School
- Manage your time
- Be proactive
- Communicate effectively
- Be a team player
- Ask questions
- Show enthusiasm
- Be healthy!
- Take care of yourself
- Have a desire to help others
- Give of yourself

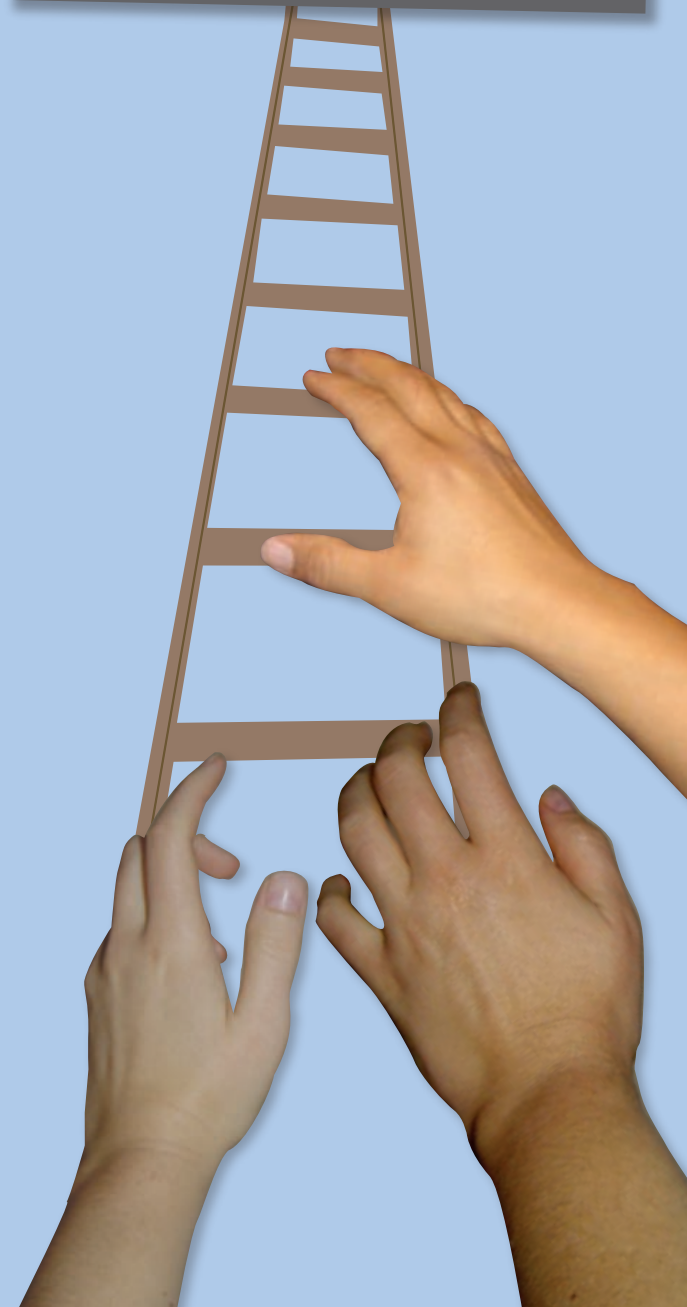
This publication is not inclusive of all options that are available in nursing. This brochure was created in collaboration with Scripps Mercy Hospital Chula Vista, Scripps Family Practice Residency Program and the San Diego Border Area Health Education Center.

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## Nursing Career Ladder



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## Nurse Practitioner

*Education Level: Master of Science*

At the advanced level, Nurse Practitioners provide basic primary health care as independent practitioners. They diagnose and treat common acute illnesses and injuries. Nurse Practitioners also can prescribe medications (but certification and licensing requirements vary by state).

## Registered Nurse (RN)

*Education Level: Associate degree in Nursing or Bachelor of Science in Nursing*

RNs work to promote health, prevent disease, and help patients cope with illness. They are advocates and health educators for patients, families and communities. They observe, assess and record symptoms, reactions, and progress; assist physicians during treatments and examinations; administer medications; and assist in rehabilitation. RNs also develop and update care plans; instruct patients in proper care and help individuals and groups take steps to improve or maintain their health. While state laws govern the tasks that RNs may perform, usually job settings determine their daily job duties.

## Certified Nursing Assistant

**(CNA)** *Education Level: High School + Certificate*

They perform routine tasks under the supervision of nursing and medical staff. They answer patient call bells, deliver messages, serve meals, make beds, and help overall health of patients. CNAs also take temperatures, pulse, respiration and blood pressure; and help patients get in and out of bed and walk. They also may escort patients to operating and examining rooms, keep patient's rooms clean, set up equipment, store and move supplies, or assist with some procedures. CNAs observe patients physical, mental, and emotional conditions and report them to the nursing or medical staff.

*This*

*profession*

*has*

*many*

*options.*

## PhD in Nursing

*Education Level: Doctorate*

This degree provides us with foundations for independent research, rather than learning only what has been discovered by others. This program is aimed at Registered Nurses who seek administrative research and professional education.

## Masters in Nursing

*Education Level: Masters*

It usually takes 1-3 years to complete a Master's degree program. A Master's degree program is commonly referred to as a graduate program or graduate school. Community colleges and junior colleges do not offer graduate programs. A student becomes eligible to enroll in a graduate program once he or she has earned a Bachelor's degree.

## Licensed Vocational Nurse

*Education Level: licensing exam after State approved nursing program.*

LVNs care for the sick, injured, convalescent and disabled under the direction of Physicians and Registered Nurses. Most provide basic bedside care. They take vital signs such as temperature, blood pressure, pulse, and respiration. They also treat bedsores, prepare and give injections and enemas, apply dressings, apply ice packs and hot water bottles, and monitor catheters.