

Nursing

Health Professions Advising Office (HPAO), Student Access to Science Center, FO5-109

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Nature of the Work, Earnings and Occupational Outlook

With 2.5 million Registered Nurses (RN's) in the US today, nursing is the largest health care profession. Nurses provide preventative and restorative health care to patients in a wide variety of settings. Nursing is an art and a science requiring in-depth knowledge, clinical skills, and understanding, as nurses deal not only with a person's biological needs, but their psychosocial and cultural needs as well.

There are several entry-level paths to become a Registered Nurse including a hospital diploma, associate degree in nursing or a bachelor's degree in nursing. Hospital Diploma nurses, which comprise less than 10% of all U.S. nursing programs, usually complete 2 to 3 years of training in a hospital setting. Associate Degree Nurses (A.D.N.'s) complete two-years of nursing course work at a community college. The Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) is the preferred path of entry into registered nursing. BSN programs are offered at colleges and universities and usually take 4-5 years to complete. While each of these programs lead to licensure as a RN, a BSN affords the opportunity to pursue leadership, management, and more independent nursing roles. BSN graduates can pursue advanced degrees or training in nursing and enjoy greater career advancement opportunities.

Median annual salaries for Registered Nurses were \$57,280 in May 2006, varying greatly with geographic location and health care setting. Advanced practice nurses reported an average annual salary of \$69,200 in 2006. annually. Changes in health care trends, as well as an aging RN workforce are increasing the demand for more nurses in the workforce. "Employment of RNs is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2016 and, because the occupation is very large, many new jobs will result. In fact, registered nurses are projected to generate 587,000 new jobs, among the largest number of new jobs for any occupation." (Occupational Outlook Handbook 08-09) The changes in health care and the shortage in nursing is making it even more important for nurses to be educated at the minimum level of baccalaureate degree. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the BSN nurse is prepared for a broader role- the BSN nurse is the only basic nursing graduate prepared to practice in all health care settings; critical care, ambulatory care, public health and mental health, and thus has the greatest employment flexibility of any entry-level RN. There are many areas open to nursing graduates, including the traditional hospital nurse who may work in pediatrics, maternity, the operating room, medical/surgical units, critical care, or trauma. Increasingly, nurses also work as nursing educators, quality assurance nurses, nurse managers, nurse epidemiologists, and in home health.

At the masters degree level there are increasing opportunities for study that include: nursing administration, nurse-midwifery, clinical specialist, nurse anesthetist, case management, and nurse practitioner (family, adult, pediatric). Nurses holding doctoral degrees often take positions in research or academic settings.

Nursing Education at CSU Long Beach

The CSULB Department of Nursing offers entry level degrees in Nursing with 3 tracks: The "Basic/Trimester" track is for students without prior nursing training, the "Registered Nurse" track is for associate degree RNs who wish to expand their professional training, and the "Entry Level MSN" track is for students who hold a bachelors degree in another field and wish to become nurses and work in acute care settings. The basic BSN track offers a two-year trimester plan or the traditional 3-year plan. Admission to the program is competitive, as the program gets many more applicants than it can accept. Below is a list of CSULB courses that satisfy pre-requisites to the CSULB nursing program.

BSN Prerequisite Natural Science Courses (must have been taken w/in last 5 years)

Human Anatomy (BIOL 208) Lecture & Lab – 4 semester units minimum

Human Physiology (BIOL 207) Lecture & Lab – 4 semester units minimum

Microbiology (MICR 200) Lecture & Lab – 4 semester units minimum

Chemistry (CHEM 140)—5 semester units minimum (Or an equivalent 5 unit **integrated** chemistry course with lab—this course **must** cover general chem, organic chem and biochem)

Prerequisite General Education Courses-applicants only need ONE from each category

Quantitative Reasoning: MATH 103, 108, 109, 112, 114, 115, 117, 119A, 122, 123, MTED 110

Oral Communication: COMM 110, 130, 132, 171, 331, 335, 441I

College Composition: ASAM 100, B/ST 100, CHLS104, ENGL 100

Critical Thinking: ASAM 190, B/ST 150, COMM 131, 131W, CWL 161, CECS 100, ETEC 171, ENGL102, HIST101, PHIL 170, POSC105, PSY 130, UHP100

Co-Requisites

Intro. To Psychology: Psych. 100

Intro. To Sociology: Soc. 100

Applicants must complete pre-requisite courses with a “C” grade or better, have a minimum 3.0 pre-requisite GPA (though competitive GPA’s are around 3.5), and meet other Nursing Department Requirements. For specific admissions information and requirements, contact the CSULB Dept. of Nursing directly at (562) 985-4463, nursing@csulb.edu or <http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/chhs/departments/nursing/>. The department holds counseling sessions once a month during Fall and Spring semesters.

For prospective nurses who are pursuing or already hold a Bachelors degree in a non-nursing subject, there are accelerated BSN and entry-level MSN programs available. In 2008, there were 218 accelerated baccalaureate programs and 57 accelerated master's programs available at nursing schools nationwide. In addition, 26 new accelerated baccalaureate programs are in the planning stages, and 7 new accelerated master's programs are also taking shape. Schools offering accelerated options allow college graduates of non-nursing fields to complete a BSN in 11-18 months. Some schools include: Mount St. Mary’s College, Samuel Merritt College, Johns Hopkins University, Regis University, Creighton, U. of Delaware, NYU and many others. Admissions requirements vary by program.

There are also programs allowing non-nursing college grads to complete a Master of Science in Nursing in approximately 3 years of study. Generally, after the first year, students are able to sit for the national licensing exam to become an RN. The last two years prepare students for advanced practice nursing specialties. There are over a dozen entry-level MSN programs in California. Some schools include: Azusa Pacific University, CSU Long Beach, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco State University, Samuel Merritt College, University of San Diego, University of San Francisco, and Western University. Out of state programs are also available and include Yale, Vanderbilt, Georgetown, and many more. Admissions requirements and advanced practice specialties vary by program. For more information on traditional BSN, accelerated BSN, and entry-level MSN programs contact the Health Professions Advising Office (HPAO).

Pathways/ Options to becoming a baccalaureate level Registered Nurse

- 1) Enter Traditional Bachelor of Science Nursing Program at a 4-year college or university (4-5 years)
- 2) Earn an Associates Degree in Nursing to become a registered nurse (2-3 years) → Enter a RN to BSN program at a four-year college or university (1-2 years)
- 3) Earn a Bachelors degree in a non-nursing field (4 years) → Enter an accelerated or traditional BSN program (1-3 years)
- 4) Earn a Bachelors degree in a non-nursing field (4 years) → Enter an Entry level MSN program, which awards the BSN and/or RN license along the way (3 years)

To find out more about the field of nursing and nursing education programs: <http://www.allnursingschools.com>

National Student Nurses Association

<http://www.nsna.org>
receptionist@nsna.org

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu>