### STRATEGIES

- Work or volunteer in healthcare and medical settings during summers and breaks.
- Shadow nurses in different settings to learn which ones hold the most appeal.
- Gain experience through externship or internship programs.
- Take electives in areas such as wellness, holistic health, medical ethics, and death and dying.
- Get involved in student organizations and seek leadership roles.
- Learn to be organized and to manage stress well.
- Develop patience, the ability to work with both patients and families for long periods, and good listening skills. Learn to work effectively with people from different cultures, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Prepare to work nights, weekends, and holidays in a hospital setting.
- Cultivate managerial skills for head nurse or other supervisory positions.
- Many specialties exist and some nurses combine specialties, e.g. pediatric oncology.
- Obtain a master's or doctoral degree for advanced practice nursing. Some specialties may also require certification.
- Join relevant professional associations and plan to attend continuing education programs.

### EMPLOYERS

- Hospitals
- Clinics and medical centers
- Physicians' offices and medical groups
- Outpatient surgery centers
- Ambulatory care centers
- Home health agencies
- Nursing care facilities
- Rehabilitation centers
- Hospices
- Dialysis centers
- Diabetes care clinics
- Birth centers
- Psychiatric hospitals and mental health agencies
- Health maintenance organizations
- Educational institutions
- Summer camps
- Large corporations
- Correctional facilities

### AREAS

#### STAFF NURSING

**Specialties by:**
- Work Setting or Type of Treatment, such as:
  - Perioperative (operating rooms)
  - Emergency/Trauma
  - Critical Care
  - Ambulatory Care
  - Home Health Care
  - Hospice and Palliative Care
  - Occupational Health
  - Radiology
  - Psychiatric-Mental Health
- Specific Health Conditions, such as:
  - Oncology
  - Diabetes Management
  - Addictions Treatment
  - HIV/AIDS Care
- Organ or Body Systems, such as:
  - Cardiovascular
  - Gastroenterology
  - Gynecology
  - Dermatology
  - Orthopedic
  - Urology
  - Respiratory
- Well-defined Populations, such as:
  - Neonatology
  - Pediatrics
  - Adults
  - Geriatrics
- Advanced Practice Nursing, such as:
  - Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Nurse Anesthesiology
  - Nurse Midwifery
  - Nurse Practitioner, including:
    - Family, Adult, Women's Health, Pediatric, Neonatal, Geriatric, Mental Health

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH</strong></td>
<td>State and local health departments</td>
<td>Develop knowledge and skills in management, decision-making, motivating, teaching, counseling, speaking, and writing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Health</td>
<td>Home healthcare agencies</td>
<td>Gain years of experience in a hospital or other healthcare setting.</td>
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<td>Rural Nursing</td>
<td>Public schools</td>
<td>Learn to work autonomously and make decisions independently.</td>
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<td>Health Education and Promotion</td>
<td>Daycare centers</td>
<td>Be prepared to move frequently to various locations either locally or abroad.</td>
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<td>Mental health facilities</td>
<td>Become flexible and adaptable.</td>
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<td>Senior centers</td>
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<td>Nurse-run clinics</td>
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<td>Religious organizations</td>
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<td>Social service agencies</td>
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<td>Wellness centers</td>
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<td>Community education programs</td>
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<td><strong>INDEPENDENT PRACTICE</strong></td>
<td>Healthcare staffing agencies</td>
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<td>Temporary Staffing</td>
<td>Travel companies</td>
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<td>Travel Nursing</td>
<td>Businesses and organizations with temporary needs</td>
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<td>Personal Services Contracting</td>
<td>Private households</td>
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<td>Private Duty</td>
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<td><strong>GOVERNMENT SERVICE</strong></td>
<td>Government health agencies including:</td>
<td>Define an area of interest since government work offers a variety of practices.</td>
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<td>Staff Nursing</td>
<td>Public Health Service</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
<td>Indian Health Service</td>
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<td>Policy Development</td>
<td>Veterans Affairs</td>
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<td>Research</td>
<td>Peace Corps</td>
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<td>VISTA</td>
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<td>Armed services</td>
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<td>Prisons</td>
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| **TELEHEALTH**  
*Provide care and advice through electronic communications media (phone, Internet).* | Call centers  
Private offices  
Clinics  
Health maintenance organizations  
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.  
Earn the Telehealth Nurse Certification. |
| **NURSING RESEARCH** | 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.  
Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations.  
Obtain a doctoral degree in nursing. |
| **EDUCATION**  
Teaching  
Educational Administration | Teaching hospitals  
Colleges and universities  
Schools of nursing | 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. |
| **INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**  
Clinical Nursing  
Emergency Relief  
Policy Development | Embassies  
Military bases  
National or international government agencies  
Non-governmental organizations  
Humanitarian organizations  
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. Study or volunteer abroad.  
Participate in medical mission trips.  
Inquire about the need for additional preparation in religious studies or similar courses.  
Research nursing requirements in other countries. |
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.

Other qualities important to the field include orientation to detail, sympathy and concern, responsibility, and the ability to handle stress and emergency situations.

There are multiple educational paths to acquire the Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) degree and the Registered Nurse (RN) designation. Research alternatives such as accelerated BSN programs or Master's Entry programs.

All states regulate nursing by requiring licensure. Investigate individual state requirements if planning to relocate.

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.

Many opportunities outside of traditional nursing exist for RN's who want to work in non-clinical roles. Research the skills, experiences, and degrees necessary to attain these positions.

OTHER AREAS

- Insurance:
  - Underwriting and Claims
- Sales
- Product Management
- Quality Assurance
- Writing
- Law
- Forensic Nursing
- Healthcare Administration
- Information Management
- Patient Advocacy
- Case Management

EMPLOYERS

- Insurance companies
- Hospitals
- Health maintenance organizations
- Business and industry:
  - Pharmaceutical companies
  - Medical equipment and supplies manufacturers
  - Medical marketing firms
- Law firms
- Medical and health publications
- Healthcare websites
- Healthcare advertising agencies
- Public relations firms
- Professional associations

STRAATEGIES

Combine interest in 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.

Gain experience as a staff nurse before taking expertise in another direction.

Demonstrate initiative and effective leadership.

Get involved with relevant professional associations.

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.
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