

Nursing

What is a nurse? The term “nurse” is applied to a wide range of individuals, some having relatively brief training and others with BS, MS, or even PhD degrees. All of them have health care training and a goal of aiding in the recovery and health of their patients.

There are several kinds of nurses. What is the difference between them? In general, the more training a nursing position requires, the more supervision, responsibility and pay the nurse receives.

- 1) **Nursing assistants** and **orderlies** help provide basic care for patients in hospitals and residents of long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes. Nursing assistants must complete a state-approved education program and must pass their state’s competency exam. Orderlies generally have at least a high school diploma.
- 2) **Licensed practical nurses (LPNs)** and **licensed vocational nurses (LVNs)** provide basic nursing care. They work under the direction of registered nurses and doctors. Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses must complete a state-approved educational program, which typically takes about 1 year to complete. They must also be licensed.
- 3) **Registered nurses (RNs)** provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members. Registered nurses usually take one of three education paths: a bachelor's of science degree in nursing (**BSN**), an associate’s degree in nursing (**ADN**), or a diploma from an approved nursing program. Registered nurses also must be licensed.
- 4) **Nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners**, also referred to as advanced practice registered nurses (**APRNs**), provide and coordinate patient care and they may provide primary and specialty health care. The scope of practice varies from state to state. (MS degree) Nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners (also referred to as APRNs) must earn at least a master’s degree in one of the specialty roles. APRNs must also be licensed registered nurses in their state and pass a national certification exam.

More details? For more detailed information, including salaries and job prospects, visit the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov/Healthcare. Also, there is a site called Nursing-School-Degrees <http://www.nursing-school-degrees.com> which allows you to sort by state, by level of education, and other factors.

Can UWW help me prepare for an accredited nursing school?

For students interested in becoming an NA, LPN, LVN, or RN, you should consider either a technical school or two year college, or a campus that offers the BSN or AND degrees. If you are interested in the more advanced nursing options, we can definitely help you prepare.

What are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)? The nurses with master’s degrees (Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners) are termed advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). These nurses provide and coordinate patient care and may provide primary and specialty health care. In addition to earning the MSN (master’s degree in nursing) degree, they must also be licensed in their state and pass a national certification exam.

What do I need to apply for admission to an accredited APRN program? Some programs accept students who have a bachelor’s degree *and* are registered nurses. However, many schools have programs to bridge gaps, helping RNs get their BS and the MS. IF you have a BS, you can also enter an accelerated second degree program leading to a BSN or even a direct entry option for the MSN degree.

What do I need to apply for admission to an accredited APRN school?

- 1. Undergraduate degree (BS or BA):** An applicant needs an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university.
- 2. Major and minor:** Many applicants will have majored in a natural science or social science.
- 3. Coursework:** APRN schools expect students to complete several courses in biology, chemistry, and psychology before entry.

Requirement	Length/Credits (minimum)	UWW courses which meet the requirements
General biology	1+ courses	BIO 141 (and BIO 142)
General chemistry	1 year / 8-10 credits	CHEM 102 and CHEM 104
Statistics	1 course / 3 credits	BIO 303 or PSYCH 215
Anatomy and physiology	1 course in each, or a two semester sequence	BIO 361 and BIO 362
Microbiology	1 course	BIO 311
Biochemistry	1 course req or rec*	BIO/CHEM 456 (454?)
General psychology	1 course req or rec*	PSYCH 211

* req/rec = required or recommended

- 4. Other coursework:** Additional courses in behavioral sciences or lifespan development (PSYCH 331, PSYCH 332, EDFOUND 222, or EDFOUND 478) are required or recommended.
- 5. Overall academic record:** Applicants need to have solid academic performance. GPA expectations will vary by school. Check the school's website for information on current requirements.
- 6. Entrance exam:** Some APRN schools ask students to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).
- 7. Extracurricular activities:** Applicants are expected to have participated in extracurricular activities. This is one indicator that you are able to work with other people, and even that you have taken on responsibility and leadership.
- 8. 'Experience of the field':** Students are expected to have direct experience with patient care. This can be met through a combination of clinical practice (volunteer work, internships) and shadowing experience.
- 9. Other jobs and experiences:** All health schools are looking for applicants who have a depth of experience. This can be demonstrated by many things: competency in a foreign language, working to pay for school, participating in organized athletics, caring for a sick family member, etc. These other experiences contribute to who you are, and they also show something of your ability to persevere and succeed.

What happens then? After your professional education, you would receive an MSN (masters in nursing) degree, or a DPN (doctorate in nursing practice). You would also need to take the appropriate licensure exams. The school you attend will help you prepare.

UWW Advisor: There is no designated advisor for this area.

Nurse Practitioner

To become a Nurse Practitioner (NP), an individual must complete an MSN (master's degree in nursing) and appropriate certification exams, including any exams for specialties.

Professional organization: For more information about the nurse practitioner profession and its requirements, please visit: American College of Nurse Practitioners, www.acnpweb.org

Training in this area:

Wisconsin

School: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Milwaukee, WI)

Programs Offered: MS - Clinical Nurse Specialist, Family Nurse Practitioner), MS/MBA, online DNP, PhD

Website: <http://www4.uwm.edu/nursing/academics/certificates/nurse-practitioner.cfm>

School: Bellin College (Green Bay, WI)

Programs Offered: BSN, MSN (Tracks: Adult - Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Educator)

Website: <http://www.bellincollege.edu/master-of-science-nursing.php>

School: Cardinal Stritch University (Milwaukee, WI)

Programs Offered: BSN Completion, MSN

Website: <https://www.stritch.edu/Academic-Programs/nursing/Admission-Requirements>

School: Concordia University (Mequon, WI)

Programs Offered: MSN - (Family Nurse Practitioner, Geriatric Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Educator), DNP

Website: <https://www.cuw.edu/Programs/msn/index.html>

School: Marian University - School of Nursing (Fond du Lac, WI)

Programs Offered: MSN - (Nurse Educator and Adult Nurse Practitioner)

Website: <http://marianuniversity.edu/nursing>

School: Marquette University College of Nursing (Milwaukee, WI)

Programs Offered: MSN - (acute care nurse practitioner; adult np or cns, older adult np or cns, pediatric np or cns, pediatric acute care np, nurse-midwifery, health care systems leadership and Clinical Nurse Leader)

Website: <http://www.marquette.edu/nursing/academicprograms-msn.shtml>

School: University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Department of Nursing (Eau Claire, WI)

Programs Offered: MSN - (Educator, Nurse Administrator, Adult NP, Family NP, Medical Surgical Clinical Nurse Specialist)

Website: <http://www.uwec.edu/CONHS/departments/nursing/index.htm>

School: University of Wisconsin - Madison School of Nursing (Madison, WI)

Programs Offered: DNP - (clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, nurse midwifery, and nurse anesthetist)

Website: <http://www.son.wisc.edu/academics-dnp.htm>

School: University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (Oshkosh, WI)

Programs Offered: BS to BSN; MSN - (FNP, CNL, Nurse Educator), DNP

Website: <http://www.uwosh.edu/con>

School: Viterbo University (La Crosse, WI)

Programs Offered: MSN - (Adult Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Educator), DNP

Website: <http://www.viterbo.edu/nursing>

Illinois

School: Rush University - College of Nursing (Chicago, IL)

Programs Offered: MSN - (*emphases:* Acute Care NP, Acute/Chronic Care Pediatric NP, Adult NP, Adult/Gerontological NP, Anesthesia, Family NP, Gerontological NP, Neonatal NP, Pediatric NP, Psychiatric NP); Post-Master's certificates are offered for all ten NP tracks); Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)

Website: (*please search 'Rush University nursing'*)

School: DePaul University - Department of Nursing (Chicago, IL)

Programs Offered: RN to BSN, MSN (*emphases:* Adult Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Anesthetist, Nursing Education, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Health Systems Leadership, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner)

Website: <http://csh.depaul.edu/departments/nursing/Pages/default.aspx>

School: Governors State University (University Park, IL)

Programs Offered: Online RN to BSN, MSN (*emphases:* Clinical Specialist in Adult Health or Nurse Administrator), DNP

Website: <http://www.govst.edu/dn>

School: Millikin University - Division of Nursing (Decatur, IL)

Program Offered: RN to BSN, MSN (*emphases:* Clinical Nurse Leader and Nurse Educator)

Website: <https://www.millikin.edu/academics/cps/nursing/Programs/MSN/Pages/default.aspx>

School: Northern Illinois University - School of Nursing & Health Sciences (DeKalb, IL)

Program Offered: RN to BSN, MSN (*emphases:* Adult Clinical nurse specialists, Adult nurse practitioners, Family nurse practitioners, Nurse educators)

Website: <http://chhs.niu.edu/nursing/ms/admission.shtml>

School: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville - School of Nursing (Edwardsville, IL)

Program Offered: RN to BSN, MSN (*emphases:* Health Care and Nursing Administration, Nurse Anesthesia, Nurse Educator, and Family Nurse Practitioner)

Website: <http://www.siu.edu/nursing/graduate/index.shtml>

School: Loyola University Chicago Niehoff School of Nursing (Chicago, IL)

Programs Offered: RN to MSN, MS in Nursing (*emphases:* Acute Care, Adult Health, Cardiac Health and Disease Management, Family Health, Health Systems Management, Oncology, Population-Based Infection Control and Environmental Safety (PICES), Women's Health)

Website: <http://www.luc.edu/nursing/graduate>

School: University of Illinois at Chicago - College of Nursing (Chicago, IL)

Programs Offered: MS in Nursing (*emphases:* Acute Care CNS, Acute Care NP, Adult NP, Adult/Geriatric NP, Geriatric CNS, Geriatric NP, Family NP, Mental Health CNS, Mental Health NP, Occupational Health/Advanced Community Health Nurse Specialist, Occupational Health/Family NP, School/Advanced Community Health Nurse Specialist, School/Family NP, Pediatric NP, Pediatric CNS, Perinatal CNS, Nurse Midwifery, Women's Health NP, Administrative Studies in Nursing, Advanced Community Health Nurse Specialist)

Website: <http://www.nursing.uic.edu/academics-admissions>

Minnesota

School: College of St. Scholastica (Duluth, MN)

Programs Offered: BS to BSN, RN to BSN, DPN

Website: <http://www.css.edu/academics/school-of-nursing/graduate-areas-of-study.html>

School: Minnesota State University - Mankato (Mankato, MN)

Programs Offered: MSN - Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), and MS - Nurse Educator (NE); DNP

Website: <http://ahn.mnsu.edu/nursing/graduate>

School: University of Minnesota - School of Nursing (Minneapolis, MN)

Programs Offered: BS to BSN, DNP, PhD

Website: <http://www.nursing.umn.edu/future-students/index.htm>

School: Winona State University - College of Nursing and Health Sciences (Winona, MN)

Programs Offered: MSN (*emphases:* Adult Nurse Practitioner {Gerontology Acute Care, Gerontology Clinical, Gerontology Primary Care}, Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing Educator, and Nurse Leadership)

Website: <http://www.winona.edu/graduatenuersing>

Iowa

School: Allen College (Waterloo, Iowa)

Programs Offered: Accelerated - BSN, RN to BSN, RN to MSN; MSN (*emphases:* Leadership, Nursing education, Community/Public Health, Nurse practitioner [Family, Adult Gerontology Acute Care, Family Psychiatric Mental Health, Adult Gerontology Primary Care]); DNP

Website: <http://www.allencollege.edu/master-of-science-in-nursing.aspx>

School: Briar Cliff University (Sioux City, IA)

Programs Offered: MSN (*emphases:* Nurse Educator, Family Nurse Practitioner)

Website: <http://www.briarcliff.edu/academics/graduate-degrees/>

School: University of Iowa - College of Nursing (Iowa City, IA)

Programs Offered: MSN (*emphases:* Clinical Nurse Leader; DNP; PhD)

Website: <http://nursing.uiowa.edu/academic-programs>

Nurse Midwife

To become a Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), you need a graduate degree from an accredited school and you must pass the certification exam. Schools offer a range of options including graduate or direct entry (BA/BS to RN and CNM training), bridge programs (RN to CNM training); DNP

Professional organization: For more information about the nurse midwife profession and its requirements, please visit American College of Nurse-Midwives (<http://www.midwife.org>). Schools offering professional training are reviewed by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). To find a list of ACME accredited Midwifery Programs, please visit <http://www.midwife.org/Programs-Accredited-by-ACME>.

Wisconsin

School: Marquette University College of Nursing (Milwaukee, WI)

Programs offered: MSN

Website: <http://www.marquette.edu/nursing/index.shtml>

Illinois

School: University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing Chicago, IL

Programs offered: AGMS (replacing individual specialties), DNP, Post-Graduate Certificate

Website: <http://www.nursing.uic.edu/>

Minnesota

School: Bethel University Nurse Midwifery Education Program (Saint Paul, MN)

Programs offered: MSN

Website: <http://gs.bethel.edu/academics/masters/nurse-midwifery>

School: University of Minnesota School of Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery Program (Minneapolis, MN)

Programs offered: MN, DNP, Post-Graduate Certificate

Website: <http://www.nursing.umn.edu/DNP/specialties/nurse-midwifery/index.htm>

Nurse Anesthetist

To become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), you need a bachelor's degree (in nursing or other appropriate area), Registered Nurse licensure, a minimum of one year acute care experience (for example, ICU or ER), and the successful completion of both an accredited nurse anesthesia educational program and the national certification examination. Many of the schools are making a transition from MSN (master degree in nursing) to DNP (doctor of nursing practice) level training for nurse anesthetists.

Professional organization: For more information about the nurse anesthetist profession and its requirements, please visit American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (<http://www.aana.com/Pages/default.aspx>)

Training in this area:

Wisconsin

School: Mayo Clinic Health System - Franciscan Healthcare School of Anesthesia (La Crosse, WI)

Programs offered: M.S. degree

Website: <http://mayoclinichealthsystem.org/locations/la-crosse/education/crna-school>

Illinois

School: Rush University College of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program (Chicago, IL)

Programs offered: MSN + DNP degrees

Website:

Minnesota

School: Saint Mary University of Minnesota Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia (Minneapolis, MN)

Programs offered: MS

Website: <http://www2.smumn.edu/deptpages/~NAP/pages/apply.html>

School: University of Minnesota School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Area of Study (Minneapolis, MN)

Programs offered: DNP

Website: <http://www.nursing.umn.edu/DNP/specialties/nurse-anesthesia/index.htm>