

# NURSING, B.S.N.

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**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** Altoona, Erie, Fayette, Harrisburg, Mont Alto, Schuylkill, University Park, Scranton

## Career Paths

After earning a B.S.N. and successfully passing the NCLEX-RN licensing exam, Registered Nurses have the opportunity to enter into a stable and growing work force. Additionally, the Penn State B.S.N. degree creates a strong foundation for continuing into advanced nursing roles through a variety of graduate level nursing programs. The versatility of the B.S.N. degree provides graduates with the skills and background to pursue the career path that is right for them. Nurses have countless options to explore different specialties, advance into leadership roles, and continue with lifelong learning while providing high quality nursing care to their clients.

## Careers

Demand for nurses continues to rise. The B.S.N. degree in Nursing is rapidly becoming the degree of choice for many healthcare facilities, rendering baccalaureate-educated nurses highly marketable. Graduates of the baccalaureate nursing program have a vast array of rewarding employment opportunities. Employment settings include:

- Trauma centers and community hospitals caring for the critically ill or injured
- Home health agencies providing medical care to homebound clients
- Rehabilitation and long-term care facilities
- Hospice agencies caring for people with terminal illnesses
- Schools or pediatric/neonatal units working with children and newborns
- Military bases
- Insurance agencies evaluating patient claims and teaching classes to insurance agents
- Travel and cruise ship nursing

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE NURSING, B.S.N. PROGRAM (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>)

## Opportunities for Graduate Studies

A baccalaureate degree in nursing is typically required to pursue advanced degrees in nursing, which prepares the nurse for roles such as nurse educator, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife, nurse anesthetist, nurse administrator and nurse researcher. The Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing at Penn State offers several advanced-degree options for B.S.N.-educated nurses. On-campus options are available for nurses interested in research through the Ph.D. in Nursing or dual-title Ph.D. programs in Nursing & Bioethics or Nursing and Clinical & Translational Sciences (CTS). Several online options are offered to provide flexibility to working nurses across the country. These programs include M.S.N. degrees in Nurse Administration and Nurse Education and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree with options in leadership and nurse practitioner including Family/ Individual Across the Lifespan, Adult Gerontology Primary Care, and Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/nursing/>)

## Professional Resources

- Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania (SNAPS) (<https://www.snap.psu.edu/>)
- National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) (<http://www.nсна.org>)
- Sigma Theta Tau International (<https://www.sigmanursing.org>)
- Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing (<http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Nursing/Pages/default.aspx#VTEYxCFVhBd>)
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing (<https://www.ncsbn.org/>)