Career Paths

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, R.N. TO 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 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 advanced clinical practice roles such as a Nurse Practitioner, or in research through the Ph.D. program. 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 (D.N.P.) degree for nurses pursuing specialization in healthcare leadership.

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

Professional Resources

- Student Nurses’ Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) (http://www.snap.psu.edu)
- National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) (http://www.nsna.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/)