

Is a Career in Nursing for You?

- Check out <https://www.discovernursing.com/>
- Talk with nurses you know about their career...perhaps spend a few hours with them to see what they do
 - Volunteer at a Nursing Home or in a hospital
- Get certified as a nursing assistant (CNA Programs)
 - Red Cross link - <http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/cna> (CNA Classes)
- Get certified in First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
 - <https://www.redcross.org/local/massachusetts/take-a-class/cpr-worcester-ma>
 - <https://code1web.com/heartsaver-first-aid-cpr-aed>
- Talk to high school guidance counselor about your goals...the earlier, the better
- Take and do well in 4 high school math courses (i.e., algebra, geometry, statistics) and 4 science courses (i.e., biology, microbiology, chemistry, physics, anatomy if they are available at your school)
- Try to find a job in the summer months where you will be interacting and working with people

Nursing Options

- **Licensed Practical Nurse:** LPNs care for the sick, injured, convalescent, and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. They provide basic care. Most LPN programs are about a yearlong and are offered by technical and vocational schools.
- **Associate Degree:** (AD) A two-to-three year program offered at junior and community colleges to prepare nurses to provide direct patient care. Some hospitals do not hire nurses with this level of preparation.
- **Bachelor of Science Nursing:** (BS/BSN) A four-year program offered at colleges and universities to prepare nurses to practice across all health care settings. RNs with a BS/BSN have the greatest opportunity for advancement.
- **Master Degree:** (MS/MSN) – Typically two years in duration. Designed for RNs with a BS/BSN who want to specialize in a specific area of nursing (i.e.; pediatrics, geriatrics, women’s health, education).
- **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP):** This program prepares RNs to become nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetist, clinical nurse specialists, or nurse administrators.
- **Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD):** This program prepares RNs to conduct research and expand our knowledge of nursing science.
- **Accelerated Nursing Programs:** Programs for individuals with a bachelor’s degree in a field other than nursing, leading to Registered Nurse (RN) licensure, and then to either a BS, MS, DNP, or PhD all depending on the program you choose.

Getting Ready to Apply to College!

- Look for schools that have accredited nursing programs. Visit the school and go on a tour, if possible.
- Get everything ready early!
 - Take the SAT and/or ACT tests if required by the schools you are interested in attending
 - Complete your resume by Fall; work with your guidance counselor & language arts teachers
 - Ask for recommendation letters from teachers at the end of junior year or early senior year
 - Write your essay the summer before applying; being sure to include your interest in working with people as a nurse
- Watch the college application deadlines and apply Early Action (not binding), if possible. Most nursing schools accept the bulk of their class from early applications.