

Nursing

The **Nursing** major prepares students to deliver compassionate, evidence-based care to individuals, families, and communities. Through rigorous coursework and clinical training, students develop skills in patient assessment, care planning, and medical interventions. Graduates typically work in hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, schools, and public health organizations, addressing a wide range of medical and wellness needs. The nursing profession offers opportunities in specialized fields such as pediatrics, critical care, and community health, providing both stability and the chance to make a meaningful impact.

Job Title Examples:

- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Medical-Surgical Nurse
- Staff Nurse
- Clinical Nurse I
- Emergency Room Nurse
- Pediatric Nurse
- Home Health Nurse
- Public Health Nurse
- School Nurse
- Hospice Nurse

Skills Needed:

Hard Skills

1. Patient care and clinical procedures
2. Proficiency with Electronic Health Records (EHR)
3. Knowledge of medical terminology
4. Medication administration and dosage calculation
5. Medical equipment operation

Soft Skills

1. Communication and interpersonal skills
2. Critical thinking and problem-solving
3. Empathy and compassion
4. Time management
5. Attention to detail

Further Education/Training Required and/or Suggested:

A BS in Nursing (BSN) qualifies students for entry-level roles as registered nurses (RNs), but additional certifications can enhance career prospects:

To Enter the Field:

1. Pass the NCLEX-RN Exam:
 - Required to become a licensed RN.
2. State Licensure:
 - Mandatory for practicing in specific states.

To Advance:

1. Specialty Certifications (e.g., CCRN, CEN):
 - For roles in critical care, emergency nursing, etc.
2. Graduate Degree (e.g., MSN, DNP):
 - For advanced practice roles like Nurse Practitioner (NP) or leadership positions.

Summary:

Passing the NCLEX-RN is essential for entry, while specialty certifications and advanced degrees support career growth.

Professional or Student Associations:

- WKU BSN Kentucky Association of Nursing Students (KANS)
- Kappa Theta Chapter of Sigma Nursing
- Minority Nursing Student Organization
- American Nurses Association (ANA)
- National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA)