

## CAREERS IN NURSING

Nursing personnel are regulated by the Florida Board of Nursing. Full and effective use of all members of the health workforce is vital to address the current and future needs of Floridians. Collaboration among allied health professionals, nurses and physicians is essential. Working together as an inter-professional collaborative team allows each member to contribute to a collective knowledge that promotes coordinated, safe, high quality, patient centered care in order to optimize the health of Floridians.

NURSING ROLE (per Florida Statute 464)	EDUCATION	LICENSURE & CERTIFICATION
<p><b>Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)</b> assists individuals with personal care, such as bathing, feeding, mobility, and are prepared to administer CPR if needed. The CNA can monitor health indicators, such as blood pressure under the supervision of RN, LPN, or physician.</p>	<p>Board Approved Nursing Assistant Training Program (120 hours)</p>	<p>CNA must pass certification exam and complete 12 hours of continuing education each year</p>
<p><b>Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)</b> promotes wellness, maintenance of good health, and illness prevention. The LPN provides direct patient care and observation, and administers medications and treatments under the direction of a registered nurse or licensed physician.</p>	<p>Career and Technical Education Certificate (1350 hours) post-high school</p>	<p>LPN must pass National Council Licensure Exam-Practical Nurse (NCLEX—PN) and complete 26 hours of continuing education every two years.</p>
<p><b>Registered Nurse (RN)</b> assesses, monitors, and evaluates patient health status using knowledge of scientific principles and clinical judgment. RNs are educated to anticipate risks and prepared to intervene to minimize or prevent medical complications in acutely ill patients. RNs educate patients, families, and communities about health promotion and disease prevention, and have a major role in care coordination. The RN administers medications and treatments prescribed by an advanced practice nurse, physician, or physician assistant.</p>	<p>Bachelor’s (4-year) or Associate’s (2-year) degree</p> <p>The bachelor’s-prepared nurse has additional knowledge of theoretical and scientific evidence that drives nursing practice, advanced skills in health assessment and leadership, and an understanding of public and community health service.</p>	<p>RN must pass National Council Licensure Exam-Registered Nurse (NCLEX—RN) and complete 26 hours of continuing education every two years.</p>
<p><b>Advanced Practice Nurses</b> independently evaluate and manage patients under established protocol with a licensed physician or dentist. Four advanced practice roles are recognized in Florida’s Nurse Practice Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP)</b> orders medical tests, diagnoses disease and illness, prescribes certain medications, and manages the care of patients with acute and chronic medical and psychiatric conditions. ARNPs practice in specific areas of expertise, such as pediatrics, family practice, and geriatrics.</li> <li>▪ <b>Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)</b> provides comprehensive well-women care and manages the patient during labor and delivery, including ordering and performing some anesthetic procedures.</li> <li>▪ <b>Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)</b> selects and administers regional and general anesthetic agents, supports life function, and oversees patient recovery.</li> <li>▪ <b>Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)</b> assesses and manages health status of individuals and families, typically functioning as educators, care coordinators for complexly ill patients, or expert consultants for nursing staff.</li> </ul>	<p>Master’s (MSN or MN) or Doctorate (DNP or PhD) degree in nursing (2 to 6 years beyond a bachelor’s degree)</p> <p>A Master’s degree prepares nurses for increased complexity of patient care and the education program includes a minimum of 500 clinical practice hours in the specialty area.</p> <p>A nursing doctorate adds educational preparation at advanced levels in the specialty area, consistent with other members of the healthcare team.</p>	<p>Advanced practice nurses must hold an active registered nurse license, pass an appropriate national specialty certification exam, and document ongoing continuing education</p>

## NURSING is a personally rewarding and inspiring career.

Nursing practice is based on scientific knowledge from the biological, physical, behavioral, and social sciences. Nurses have a strong educational background that prepares them to think critically, care for those with health problems, and use their knowledge to promote health and prevent disease. Lifelong learning, self-awareness, intellectual ability, and a commitment to professional growth are required of all nurses. All nurses work together with other health practitioners as part of the health care team.

**Nurses have choices in areas of specialty, education degrees, and places to work.**

Discover Nursing

[www.discovernursing.com](http://www.discovernursing.com)

*The Florida Center of Nursing (FCN) estimates that by 2025 Florida will have a shortage of at least 56,000 RN's and 12,500 LPN's.*

[www.flcenterfornursing.org](http://www.flcenterfornursing.org)

Florida Nurses Association

[www.floridanurse.org](http://www.floridanurse.org)

(407) 896-9042

# WHAT IS NURSING?



This is a guide to choosing a career path and education program in nursing.



## CHOOSE THE RIGHT SCHOOL

Consider accreditation status, graduate pass rates on the national licensure exam, and cost.

**Accredited** schools meet high standards. Degrees from accredited schools are widely respected and credits may be transferred to other accredited programs for career and educational advancement. Some scholarships are available only to students attending accredited schools. There are two types of accreditation.

**Regional accreditation** assures that the school meets standards set by the US Department of Education (DOE). In Florida, the most common regional accreditation is awarded by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

### What to watch for:

- The Florida Commission for Independent Education is not an accrediting body. Any nonpublic school operating in Florida must be licensed by this DOE Commission.
- The National Association for Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, are lobbying groups and are not accrediting bodies.

Accreditation by the U.S. Department of Education is public information available at <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>

**Nursing accreditation** assures that the program meets national standards for nursing education and has an established record of student success. Accredited programs publish this information and it is also listed on the accrediting body website. Many graduate schools will not accept students with degrees from nursing schools that are not accredited by either the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education (CCNE) or Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN, formerly NLNAC), even if the school is regionally accredited.

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**Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education**  
[www.aacn.nche.edu](http://www.aacn.nche.edu)

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**Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing**  
[www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org)  
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The **Florida Board of Nursing (FBON)** approves new pre-licensure nursing education programs that meet the requirements specified in Florida law. The Board is not responsible for the day to day operations of an education program.

### What to watch for:

- The **national licensure (NCLEX) pass rate** average is about 90% for RNs and 84% for LPNs. Choose a school that is not more than 10 points below the national average.

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**Search Education & Training Information for FBON approved schools and NCLEX pass rates at Florida Board of Nursing**  
[www.floridasnursing.gov](http://www.floridasnursing.gov)  
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