

NURSE

Entry Level: Bachelor's Degree

***Please Note:** BYU has a specific College of Nursing, separate from the Exercise Sciences programs: <https://nursing.byu.edu/>.

Registered nurses (RNs) provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members.¹

JOB REQUIREMENTS

What is the exact job title?

- Registered Nurse (RN)

How do I become one?

- Complete an accredited registered nurse program (please see the BYU page above for more details about BYU's Nursing Program).³
- Take and pass the NCLEX-RN exam. This computerized test has an average of 119 questions and must be completed within 6 hours. The national average NCLEX-RN passage rate is about 70-75%.³
- Complete requirements for licensure within your state.³

What qualities do I need?

- **Critical-thinking skills:** RNs must assess changes in the health status of patients, such as determining when to take corrective action and when to make referrals.¹
- **Communication skills:** RNs must be able to communicate effectively with patients in order to understand their concerns and assess their health conditions. Nurses need to clearly explain instructions, such as how to take medication. They must work in teams with other health professionals and communicate the patients' needs.¹
- **Compassion:** RNs should be caring and empathetic when looking after patients.¹
- **Detail oriented:** Registered nurses must be responsible and detail oriented because they must make sure that patients get the correct treatments and medicines at the right time.¹
- **Emotional stability:** RNs need emotional resilience and the ability to manage their emotions to cope with human suffering, emergencies, and other stresses.¹
- **Organizational skills:** RNs often work with multiple patients with various health needs. Organizational skills are critical to ensure that each patient is given appropriate care.¹
- **Physical stamina:** RNs should be comfortable performing physical tasks, such as moving patients. They may be on their feet for most of their shift.¹

TYPICAL WORK DAY

What do they do?

- Assess patients' conditions.¹
- Record patients' medical histories and symptoms.¹
- Observe patients and record the observations.¹
- Administer patients' medicines and treatments.¹

1<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

2[https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Registered_Nurse_\(RN\)/Hourly_Rate](https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Registered_Nurse_(RN)/Hourly_Rate)

3<https://www.learnhowtobecome.org/nurse/registered-nurse/>

- Set up plans for patients' care or contribute information to existing plans.¹
- Consult and collaborate with doctors and other healthcare professionals.¹
- Operate and monitor medical equipment.¹
- Help perform diagnostic tests and analyze the results.¹
- Teach patients and their families how to manage illnesses or injuries.¹
- Explain what to do at home after treatment.¹

Where do they normally work?

- Registered nurses work in hospitals, physicians' offices, home healthcare services, and nursing care facilities. Others work in outpatient clinics and schools, or serve in the military.¹

What hours do they work?

- Because patients in hospitals and nursing care facilities need round-the-clock care, nurses in these settings usually work in shifts, covering all 24 hours. They may work nights, weekends, and holidays. They may be on call, which means that they are on duty and must be available to work on short notice. Nurses who work in offices, schools, and other places that do not provide 24-hour care are more likely to work regular business hours.¹

BENEFITS

What is a typical salary in this field?

- BLS: In May 2018, median pay was \$34.48/hour or \$71,730/year.¹
- Payscale: \$29.24/hour or \$63,099/year.²

Does this job come with any benefits? (vision, dental, 401k, PTO, etc.)

- Medical: 76%²
- Vision: 59%²
- Dental: 67%²
- None: 22%²

GROWTH

What is the projected job growth?

- Between 2018 - 2028, job growth is projected to be 12%, much faster than the average for all occupations.¹

Last Updated: October 2019

¹<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

²[https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Registered_Nurse_\(RN\)/Hourly_Rate](https://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Registered_Nurse_(RN)/Hourly_Rate)

³<https://www.learnhowtobecome.org/nurse/registered-nurse/>