

## **Registered Nurse**

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 families.

*Registered Nurses typically do the following:*

- Assess patients' conditions
- Record patients' medical histories and symptoms
- Observe patients and record the observations
- Administer patients' medicines and treatments
- Set up plans for patients' care or contribute information to existing plans
- Consult and collaborate with doctors and other healthcare professionals
- Operate and monitor medical equipment
- Help perform diagnostic tests and analyze the results
- Teach patients and their families how to manage illnesses or injuries
- Explain what to do at home after treatment

Most Registered Nurses work as part of a team with Physicians and other healthcare specialists. Some Registered Nurses oversee Licensed Vocational Nurses, Nursing Assistants, and Home Health Aides.

Registered Nurses' duties and titles often depend on where they work and the patients they work with. For example, an Oncology Nurse works with cancer patients and a Geriatric Nurse works with elderly patients. Some Registered Nurses combine one or more areas of practice. For example, a Pediatric Oncology Nurse works with children and teens who have cancer.

## **Work Environment**

Registered Nurses work in hospitals, physicians' offices, home healthcare services, and nursing care facilities. Others work in outpatient clinics and schools. Some nurses travel frequently in the United States and throughout the world to help care for patients in places where there are not enough healthcare workers.

Nurses who work in hospitals and nursing care facilities usually work in shifts to provide round-the-clock coverage. 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.

[Watch a video about being a Registered Nurse](#)

**Top Local Employers:** Stanford Health Care, American Traveler, Trustaff Management, Emerald Health Network, Clinical Management Consultants

**Median Pay**

\$146,383

**Job Growth (2020-2025)**

9%

**Education and Training**

Registered Nurses usually take one of three education paths: a bachelor's degree in Nursing, an associate degree in Nursing, or a diploma from an approved Nursing program. Registered Nurses must be licensed.

Nursing education programs usually include courses in anatomy, physiology, microbiology psychology, and other social and behavioral sciences, as well as in liberal arts. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree programs typically take 4 years to complete; Associate degree in Nursing (ADN), Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree, and diploma programs usually take 2 to 3 years to complete. Diploma programs are typically offered by hospitals or medical centers, and there are far fewer diploma programs than there are BSN, ADN, and ASN programs. All programs include supervised clinical experience.

Bachelor's degree programs usually include additional education in physical and social sciences, communication, leadership, and critical thinking. A bachelor's or higher degree is often necessary for administrative positions, research, consulting, and teaching.

Generally, licensed graduates of any of the three types of education programs (bachelor's, associate's, or diploma) qualify for entry-level positions as a staff nurse. However, employers—particularly those in hospitals—may require a bachelor's degree.

Registered Nurses with an ADN, ASN, or diploma may go back to school to earn a bachelor's degree through an RN-to-BSN program. There are also master's degree programs in nursing, combined bachelor's and master's programs, and accelerated programs for those who wish to enter the field of nursing and already hold a bachelor's degree in another field. Some employers offer tuition reimbursement.

**Local Education:**

[College of San Mateo](#)

[CSU East Bay](#)

[De Anza College](#)



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[Samuel Merritt University](#)

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**For More Information:**

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

[American Nurses Association](#)



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