

Your Professional Nursing Workforce



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. The Suncoast Nursing Action Coalition (SNAC) promotes higher quality of care and access to patient care by advancing baccalaureate and higher levels of nursing education. SNAC advocates for seamless academic progression and the BSN as entry level for registered nurses.



PROFESSIONAL NURSING ROLES	EDUCATION	LICENSURE
<p>Registered Nurse (RN): Registered nurses assess, monitor and evaluate patient health using their knowledge of scientific principles and clinical judgement. Nurses care for individuals and families in all phases of the health and wellness continuum, as well as provide leadership in healthcare delivery systems and academic settings. Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) work under the supervision of RNs or physicians to support the care of patients.</p> <p>Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Degree Preferred</p> <p>Baccalaureate prepared nurses have additional knowledge of theoretical and scientific evidence that drives nursing practice, advanced skills in health assessment and leadership, and education in public and community health service that includes emergency and disaster preparedness. <i>Decades of research demonstrates that BSN-prepared nurses significantly improve health outcomes for hospitalized patients including reducing infection rates and complications, length of hospital stay, re-admissions and mortality. Within Florida, BSN graduates have a higher national RN licensure exam (NCLEX) passage rate than those with Associate Degrees.</i></p>	<p>Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) 2-year degree</p> <p>Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing (BSN) 4-year degree routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard bachelor’s degree • Accelerated BSN (for individuals with an undergraduate degree) • RN to BSN (2 + 2 year, for licensed RNs with an ADN degree) 	<p>To obtain RN license, ADN and BSN prepared nurses must pass National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN) and complete 26 hours of continuing education every 2 years.</p>
<p>Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN): APRNs are Registered Nurses prepared at the graduate (Master’s or Doctorate) level to provide advanced knowledge and skills in a specialized nursing role. There are four recognized APRN roles:</p> <p>■ Nurse Practitioner (NP): Nurse practitioners provide a wide range of health-care services across the acute and primary care setting. A NP is educated and certified in a population-focused area and provides initial, ongoing and comprehensive care for acute and chronic illnesses. Nurse Practitioners perform health histories and complete physical examinations; diagnose and treat many common acute and chronic problems; order and interpret laboratory results and X-rays; prescribe and manage medications and therapies, provide health teaching and supportive counseling with an emphasis on prevention of illness and health maintenance; and make referrals to specialty providers as appropriate.</p>	<p>Master’s in Nursing (MSN) or doctoral degree to include Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (2-6 years beyond a bachelor’s degree)</p>	<p>Advanced Practice RNs must complete an accredited graduate nursing program and pass national specialty certification exams, as well as document ongoing continuing education.</p>

PROFESSIONAL NURSING ROLES

EDUCATION

LICENSURE

■ **Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM):** Certified nurse midwives provide comprehensive well-woman care and manage patient care during labor and delivery, including ordering/performing some anesthetic procedures.

■ **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA):** Nurse anesthetists select and administer regional and general anesthetic agents, support life function, and oversee patient recovery.

■ **Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS):** Clinical nurse specialists assess and manage the health status of individuals and families, typically functioning as educators, care coordinators for patients with complex illness and expert consultants for nursing staff.

Research and Leadership Roles: Nurses with advanced degrees serve in a variety of roles in universities and health care organizations.

■ **Researcher:** Nurse researchers support the academic and clinical pursuit of new evidence and knowledge by conducting research and disseminating it through publishing, presenting and teaching.

■ **Educator:** Nurse educators teach in all levels of nursing programs and health care organizations with a focus on translating research into practice.

■ **Leadership:** Nurse leaders work to improve systems of care and health outcomes.

Master's in Nursing (MSN) or doctoral degree to include Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
(2-6 years beyond a bachelor's degree)

RN or APRN

Nursing Program Accreditation

Nursing accreditation assures that education programs meet national standards for nursing education and have an established record of student success. Accreditation should be considered on two levels – the university or college as well as the nursing program.

Many graduate schools do not accept students with degrees that are not accredited by either the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education (CCNE) or Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN):

The U.S. Department of Education provides regulatory oversight and publishes a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies at: ope.ed.gov/accreditation

For more information, visit:

Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education: aacnnursing.org/ccne
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing: acenursing.org



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