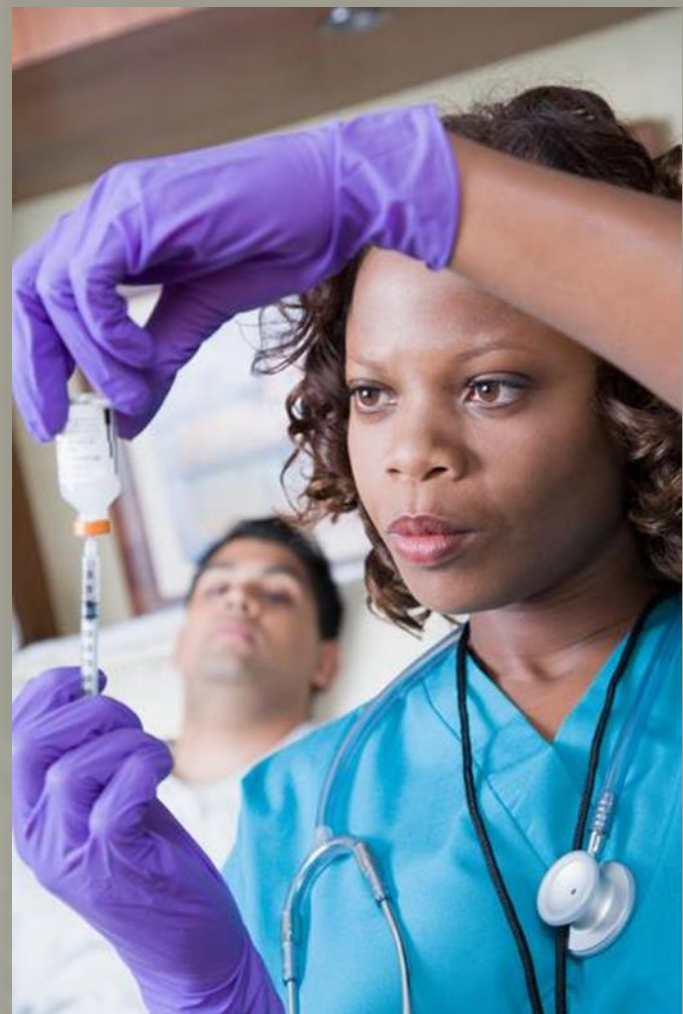


# Registered Nurse (RN)



## What do they do?

Registered Nurses provide patient care and work as part of a healthcare team. They maintain patient records, give medication, operate medical equipment and consult with physicians and other health professionals. A primary part of a RN's job is to educate patients and their families about their illness or injury and explain what to do after treatment.

## Where do they work?

Most RN's work in hospitals, nursing homes or private doctors' offices while others may go to patients in their homes. Nurses can be found in nearly every area of patient care.

## Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for RN's is \$65,470.



## Education:

A two-year (ADN) or four-year (BSN) degree is required to become a Registered Nurse. Some go on to get a Master's degree (MSN).

## RN training in Madison:

Madison College (ADN): [www.madisoncollege.edu](http://www.madisoncollege.edu)

UW-Madison (BSN/MSN): [www.son.wisc.edu](http://www.son.wisc.edu)

Edgewood College (BSN): [www.edgewood.edu](http://www.edgewood.edu)

Herzing University (ADN/BSN/MSN): [www.herzing.edu](http://www.herzing.edu)

High School students interested in becoming a RN should take college prep classes including biology, physics and chemistry, anatomy & physiology and medical terminology.

## Accreditation:

Education programs for nursing education are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education through the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

[www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation)



## Professional Associations:

RN's can choose to join these professional associations:

American Nurses Association:

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

National League for Nursing:

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

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists:

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



## Licensure:

After graduation from an accredited nursing program, students must pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) to become licensed to work. This exam is administered by Pearson Vue. Learn more at:

[www.pearsonvue.com/nclex](http://www.pearsonvue.com/nclex)

After passing the NCLEX-RN, a nurse must register with the state of Wisconsin.

[www.dsps.wi.gov](http://www.dsps.wi.gov)



## Potential for Advancement:

Nurses who have a Bachelor's or Master's degree have more opportunity to advance. RN's with experience can become supervisors or administrators of a hospital or clinic. A nurse practitioner (NP) is a registered nurse (RN) with advanced academic and clinical education usually requiring a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP).

Depending on where they work, RN's tend to focus on specific areas of care. They may work with a specific type of condition, a certain part of the body, a narrow group of people or in a specialized workplace. Here are some examples:

- Critical Care Nurse: Works in an intensive care unit at a hospital.
- Geriatric or Pediatric Nurse: Works with a specific age group. Those in geriatrics work with the elderly, while those in pediatric areas work with children.
- Non-Patient Care: Some nurses choose to work outside of patient care. They could become nurse educators, researchers, public policy advisors, hospital administrators, healthcare consultants or work with pharmaceutical and medical supply companies.



## Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Registered Nurses is expected to grow 19 percent between 2012-2020, which is faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, Registered Nurses:  
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

