

CAREER OUTLOOK

According to the US Department of Labor, nursing is the largest health care related occupation in the country. It is also a profession that is experiencing a nation-wide shortage. Employment opportunities for registered nurses are excellent and are expected to grow 21%-35% through the end of the decade. As the "baby-boom" generation becomes increasingly older, the number of people who will require medical care is projected to grow very rapidly. There will also be a demand for nursing educators who will be responsible for teaching the next generation of talented nurses. Another area of expected growth is in advanced training and specialization.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Nurses Association
600 Maryland Avenue, SW,
Suite 100 W.
Washington, DC 20024-2571
Phone: (202) 651-7000
Web: www.nursingworld.org

Mississippi Nurses Association
31 Woodgreen Place
Madison, MS 39110
Phone: (601) 898-0670
Web: www.msnurses.org



MHA HEALTH CAREERS CENTER

6425 LAKEOVER ROAD (39213)
P.O. Box 16444
JACKSON, MS 39236-6444
PHONE (601) 982-3251
FAX (601) 368-3200

WWW.MSHEALTHCAREERS.COM

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*Promoting Health
Careers in Mississippi*

A division of Mississippi Hospital Association

REGISTERED NURSE - BACCALAUREATE

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Registered nurses (RNs) are the backbone of almost every health care facility in the nation. RNs provide patients with treatment and education, as well as participating in patient care evaluation and discharge planning. Responsibilities of a registered nurse may include understanding, administering, and evaluating the effects of a wide range of medicines, operating and interpreting intricate life saving equipment, and being caring and sympathetic to patients with severe injuries and illnesses. There are many specialties that an RN may choose such as intensive care, pediatrics, gerontology, surgical care, psychiatry, anesthesiology, oncology, orthopedics, administration, or education. Registered nurses are also in charge of supervising other nursing staff such as licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and certified nursing assistants (CNAs). Anyone interested in entering this field of nursing should be well organized, able to work well under pressure, able to form and maintain good interpersonal relationships, and have the ability to handle emergencies calmly. Academic ability and good study habits are also necessary for any student who is considering a career in nursing. Nursing is one of the most challenging and rewarding health careers and requires hard work and dedication to be successful.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Registered nurses work in hospitals, nursing homes, public health departments, clinics, schools, physicians' offices, home health agencies, rehabilitation centers, mental health institution, the military, and industrial or corporate sites.

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students interested in a career as a registered nurse should take courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, geometry, psychology, sociology, first aid, foods and nutrition, health occupations/medical professions education, physical education, English, computer skills, and foreign languages.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Individuals interested in a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (B.S.N.) must complete a four-year collegiate program. Students who have an associate degree in nursing may enroll in a BSN completion program. The curriculum in these programs is usually divided between nursing and liberal arts/sciences. These programs include supervised clinical nursing experience that is provided in hospitals and other health care facilities. After receiving the B.S.N., students are eligible to apply to take the national licensure exam to become a Registered Nurse. Baccalaureate programs provide the foundation for a student to continue his or her education in a masters degree program or higher.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Alcorn State University
PO Box 18399
Natchez, MS 39122
Phone: (601) 442-3901

Delta State University
PO Box 3154
Cleveland, MS 38733
Phone: (662) 846-3000

Mississippi University for Women
PO Box W-1614
Columbus, MS 39701
Phone: (662) 329-4750

The University of MS Medical Center
2500 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39216
Phone: (601) 984-6213

University of Southern Mississippi
Box 5101
Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Phone: (601) 288-4201

Mississippi College
PO Box 4026
Clinton, MS 39058
Phone: (800) 962-5991

William Carey College
498 Tuscan Avenue
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5499
Phone: (601) 582-6223

SALARY RANGE

Average Annual Salary--\$42,600
Salary Range--\$35,600-\$45,400