

Nature of the Profession

Nurse Practitioners are registered professional nurses who function in an advanced nursing practice role and a delegated medical role. Nurse practitioners have acquired additional knowledge and skills in an advanced nursing practice specialty and collaborate with physicians to deliver medical care.

APTITUDES

- Be able to learn biological sciences and practices of nursing.
- Have good math and verbal abilities in reading, writing, and speaking.
- Have good space and form perception, general coordination, and hand and finger dexterity.
- Be able to handle a variety of activities, make decisions based on data and observations.
- Be creative, flexible, able to work under stress, and willing to make decisions.
- Have good communication and interpersonal skills.

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

High school subjects that may help prepare individuals for this occupation include biology, chemistry, earth or life sciences, English, composition, literature, history, sociology, psychology, algebra I and II, geometry, physics, calculus, foreign language, computer applications, human and child development, and health.

EDUCATION

Nurse practitioners must first complete a baccalaureate degree in nursing and become licensed as a registered nurse. Registered nurses may then enter a master's degree program to become a nurse practitioner. Most master's degree programs require two years of full-time study.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Clarkson College – Omaha (M)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (M), Hastings (M)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center – Omaha, Kearney, Lincoln, Scottsbluff (M, D)

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of nurse practitioners is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2008 and because the nursing occupation is large, many new jobs will result. Opportunities will be good for nurses with advanced education and training.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a nurse practitioner must be a registered nurse, complete an approved advanced registered nurse practitioner program at the master's level, and pass a national certifying exam.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American College of Nurse Practitioners

503 Capitol Ct., NE, Suite 300, Washington DC 20002

(202) 546-4825

Web Address: www.nurse.org/acnp/

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners

P.O. Box 12846, Austin, TX 78711

(512) 442-4262

Web Address: www.aanp.org