General Description:
Though often working collaboratively, nurses do not simply "assist" physicians and other health care providers. Instead, they practice independently within their own defined scope of practice. Nursing roles range from direct patient care to case management, establishing nursing practice standards, developing quality assurance procedures, and directing complex nursing care systems.

What are some common daily activities/experiences?
- Assessing, managing, and orchestrating care
- Communicating with other healthcare team members to plan care
- Educating patients and families about disease trajectory, treatments, and side effects of medications
- Documenting care

What are 3-5 personal characteristics important for happiness and success in your profession?
- Ability to work under pressure
- Fulfillment of working with the team to prevent suffering
- Contribute to research
- Ability to set boundaries--work hard and play hard
- Commitment to lifelong learning

What are 3-5 key questions students should be asking themselves as they prepare for your profession?
- Am I willing to listen and be present with people when they are most vulnerable?
- Am I willing to advocate for patients and their families when they do not have a voice?
- Am I willing to communicate and work with a team to orchestrate the best care possible?
- Am I willing to commit to lifelong learning and engage in evidence-based practice?

Preparing for Admission:
Please note that on NursingCAS every single program posted has a “Program Homepage” in the “Program Materials” section (account required to access this section). On that homepage schools are encouraged to list program prerequisites, minimum GPA, academic background, standardized tests, required references, experience, etc. And have the option of inputting their requirements for custom questions, document uploads, pre-requisite coursework, references (called evaluations).

- Resources for researching schools:
  - AACN: https://www.aacn.nche.edu/students/nursing-program-search
  - Discover Nursing: http://www.discovernursing.com/schools#no-filters
  - NursingCAS: https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login

The Admissions Cycle:
- CAS(es): Nursing Centralized Application Service (NursingCAS)
  - www.nursingcas.org
  - Application opens: August 2016
The Admissions Process:

- Approx dates of interviews, offers: varies by school and program
- Advisor Portal: Available in 2017
- Total number of applicants in most recent cycle (through CAS and/or all member programs if known): 112,138 applicants via NursingCAS and 554,339 complete applications received as reported by AACN member programs
- Total number of first year students (through CAS and all if known): N/A due to all the different program pathways
- Total number of students: 477,758 undergraduate and graduate students
- Total number of graduates in most recent academic year: 163,408
- Average # of applications per student: Data not available
- Test score and GPA averages and ranges, other data on applicants and accepted students (major, age, race/ethnicity, gender, whatever makes sense for the profession): Data not available, varies greatly per school and program

Learn More about the Profession

Training & Career Opportunities:

- Number of years: varies by career path
- Degree attained: Most common are BSN, MSN, DNP, and PhD, for a full listing of nursing degree types and descriptions visit http://www.nursingcas.org/prepare-to-apply/glossary-of-nursing-degrees/.
- Data on employment of recent graduates, if available:
  - For new baccalaureate prepared nurses
    - 56% were employed at graduation
    - 87% were employed 4-6 months after graduation

For more information on many health professions, we recommend the NAAHP publication, Health Professions Admission Guide: Strategies for Success, available on the NAAHP website.
Key Resources for Students:
- [Guide](#) to Graduate Nursing Programs
- [Financial Aid](#) for Nursing Students
- [Career Advice](#) for Prospective Nursing Students
- [Accelerated Nursing Programs](#) for Non-Nursing Graduates

Key Resources for Advisors:
- Nursing Career [Facts](#)
- Pathway [Chart](#) to a Doctoral Degree in Nursing

Social Media:
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

Advisory Council Professional Association Partner Information
- [American Association of Colleges of Nursing](#), [www.aacn.nche.edu/](#)

Mission
The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), as the collective voice for academic nursing, AACN serves as the catalyst for excellence and innovation in nursing education, research, and practice.

Size of organization, Number of member institutions
790 member schools of nursing employing more than 18,000 full-time faculty members

New institutional members in last two years: For a full list of member institutions, visit [https://www.aacn.nche.edu/about-aacn/member-schools](https://www.aacn.nche.edu/about-aacn/member-schools).

Advisory Council Contact Information
Caroline Allen
*American Association of Colleges of Nursing*
One Dupont Circle, NW Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036
[callen@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:callen@aacn.nche.edu)
(202) 463-6930 x-258

NAAHP liaison and contact information
Debrah Beck
*University of North Texas*
[debrah.beck@unt.edu](mailto:debrah.beck@unt.edu)

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