
WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... **NURSING**

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

According to the [University Of New Mexico Graduate and Professional Degrees website \(2013\)](#), "Nursing combines science and technology with the desire to help people. Nurses assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. Nurses may advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. Licensing or registration required. Includes advance practice nurses such as: nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists. Advanced practice nursing is practiced by RNs who have specialized formal, post-basic education and who function in highly autonomous and varied roles."

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

According to the [University Of New Mexico Graduate and Professional Degrees website \(2013\)](#), "In all states, the District of Columbia, and U.S territories, students must graduate from an approved nursing program and pass a national licensing examination, known as the NCLEX-RN, in order to obtain a nursing license. Nurses may be licensed in more than one State, either by examination or by the endorsement of a license issued by another State. Nursing programs range from associate degrees to graduate level programs; higher degrees typically involve a broader and more complex scope of patient care. UNM offers a variety of degree options at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels."

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:

A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM's [Lobo Career Connection](#) for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the [UNM Office of Career Services](#) for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Hospital Units:

Pediatrics, Surgical, Emergency, Critical Care, Psychiatric, Maternity, Women's Health, Newborn, Intensive Care, Hospitals, Clinics, Physicians' offices, Outpatient surgery centers, Nursing homes, Rehabilitation centers, Hospices Psychiatric hospitals, Educational institutions

Community and Public Health:

Home health, rural nursing, Health education, Public and private schools, Daycare centers, mental health facilities, State and local health departments, Home healthcare agencies, senior centers, Religious organizations, Social service agencies

Independent Contracts:

Temporary staffing, Travel nursing, Personal services contracting, Private duty, Healthcare staffing agencies, Travel companies, Private households

Government Service:

Staff nursing, Administration, Policy Department, Research, Government health agencies, Armed services, Prisons

International Health:

Embassies, Military bases, National or international government agencies, Church-related mission services, World Health Organizations

Advanced Practice:

Earn MSN or DNP as a nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife to provide primary and specialized health care

Student Affairs:

Administration, Greek affairs, advising, multicultural affairs, residence life, student activities

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

- Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in internships, student employment, [Co-ops](#), and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Consider working in multiple departments throughout campus to gain experience in areas you are interested in through work study or student employment.
- Make strong connections throughout campus organizations by networking and attending campus events and activities.

- Consider earning a second degree, minor, or pursuing additional coursework in a complementary field of study (e.g., business).
- Focus on developing “transferable skills” such as computer competency, written/verbal communication, and project management.
- Seek leadership opportunities on campus. Some positions may require an advanced degree.
- Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Research government internship program and think about interning with a government agency to get a foot in the door, as well as building your resume.
- Make sure to research organizations’ values. Knowledge about organizations is critical, because it shows to employers that you’ve done your research and committed to work for them.

WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN?

USA Jobs (official job site of the federal government) www.usajobs.gov
Idealist.org (comprehensive site of international nonprofit opportunities) <http://www.idealists.org/>

STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES

Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013):

REGISTERED NURSE

Location	2012				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	\$45,000	\$53,700	\$65,500	\$78,700	\$94,700
New Mexico	\$49,300	\$55,700	\$66,000	\$76,200	\$89,700

NURSE PRACTITIONER

Location	2012				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	\$64,100	\$78,400	\$90,000	\$106,500	\$120,500
New Mexico	\$63,600	\$71,500	\$87,100	\$106,600	\$123,700

INFORMATIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL WEBSITES

UNM School of Nursing	http://nursing.unm.edu/
National League for Nursing	http://www.nln.org/
American Nurses Association	http://nursingworld.org/
UNM Student Nurses Association (SNA)	www.nсна.org
All Nursing Schools (directory of U.S. nursing schools)	www.allnursingschools.com
New Mexico Nurses Association	http://www.nmna.org
National Council of State Boards of Nursing	https://www.ncsbn.org/index.htm
New Mexico Board of Nursing	http://www.bon.state.nm.us/
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists	http://www.nacns.org/
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners	http://www.aanp.org/AANPCMS2
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses	http://www.aacn.org
American Society of Registered Nurses	http://www.asrn.org/



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