

Check This Out –

STAT!

By Anne Stover

If you're the kind of person who thrives on making a difference in the lives of others, the field of nursing opens up numerous career options.

Nurses are currently in high demand in various health facilities around the country, from doctor's offices and hospitals to schools, hospices, public, and occupational health services.

And choices abound. Nurses have the option to specialize in pediatrics, anesthetics, psychiatry, oncology, and sports medicine among many other areas. There are those who work in maternity wards with premature infants, while others work in operating rooms, assisting in surgery by handing instruments to the surgeon. You can be a certified registered nurse anesthetist, a nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist, just to name a few.

There are differences between nursing specializations. For example, a nurse practitioner has more training and expertise than a registered nurse. In Kentucky, a nurse practitioner can prescribe medication to a patient, but a registered nurse cannot and must follow the doctor's orders regarding medications. The more education and training you receive, the more responsibilities you are given, and the more money you can earn.

Educational paths to a nursing career include receiving an associate's degree in nursing (ADN), or a bachelor of science degree in nursing (BSN). You can get an ADN in two to three years at a junior or community college. A BSN involves four to five years of coursework at a college or university as well as hands-on experience in a hospital, working with patients alongside other nurses and doctors.

For more information on nursing careers, visit www.Nursezone.com. 

Some Courses Nursing Students Take:

- ✦ Anatomy
- ✦ Physiology
- ✦ Microbiology
- ✦ Chemistry
- ✦ Nutrition
- ✦ Psychology and Behavioral Sciences

Average Salaries for Nurses in Kentucky

Staff nurse: \$42, 796

Critical care unit: between \$45, 886

Registered nurse/operating room: \$47, 769

Nurse practitioner: \$62, 064

Source: *Monster.com*



Kentucky Schools with Nursing Programs

- ✦ Ashland Community College
- ✦ Bellarmine University
- ✦ Berea College
- ✦ Eastern Kentucky University
- ✦ Elizabethtown Community College
- ✦ Hazard Community College
- ✦ Henderson Community College
- ✦ Hopkinsville Community College
- ✦ Jefferson Community College
- ✦ Kentucky Christian College
- ✦ Kentucky State University
- ✦ Lexington Community College
- ✦ Madisonville Community College
- ✦ Maysville Community College
- ✦ Midway College
- ✦ Morehead State University
- ✦ Murray State University
- ✦ Northern Kentucky University
- ✦ Owensboro Community College
- ✦ Paducah Community College
- ✦ Pikeville College
- ✦ Prestonsburg Community College
- ✦ Somerset Community College
- ✦ Southeast Community College
- ✦ Spalding University
- ✦ St. Catherine College
- ✦ Thomas More College
- ✦ University of Kentucky
- ✦ University of Louisville
- ✦ Western Kentucky University