

The University of Kansas School of Nursing

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I want to specialize in one area of nursing. How do I do that?

At the baccalaureate level, all students are exposed to a variety of nursing areas: critical care, pediatrics, psychiatric and community health, to name a few. During the spring semester of their senior year, KU nursing students spend the majority of their time in a professional practicum, gaining additional and more specific experience in a single area prior to graduation.

Many specialty areas, such as Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Anesthetist, and Midwife, are graduate level programs. Students who complete their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) can apply to the Master of Science in nursing (MS) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program for further study.

How long does the program at the KU School of Nursing take?

The BSN program is designed to be completed in four semesters and a summer session, providing the student attends full-time. Attendance during the summer semester between the junior and senior year is required.

What are average starting salaries for graduates of KU School of Nursing's undergraduate program?

The job outlook for nurses is good right now! All of our May 2008 graduates who looked for jobs during the spring and summer had jobs by June. They are working in such fields as hematology, neonatal, pediatrics, oncology, general practice, critical care and obstetrics, as well as other fields. The majority of the graduates are working in a hospital setting. The national average starting salary ranges from \$42,000 to \$50,000; the Kansas City area average is approximately \$46,000.

What are my options beyond the BSN?

There are so many different areas that a person with a BSN can enter! A registered nurse can work in a hospital setting, in the community, the home health care area, or in an industrial setting, just to name a few. There really are endless possibilities.

After the BSN some students elect to enroll in graduate nursing programs for further, specialized education. Some of the areas KU offers graduate work include: Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Practitioner, Nurse-Midwife, Nursing Leadership, Nurse Researcher and Nurse Anesthetist. (The Nurse Anesthesia program is offered through the School of Allied Health.) Students can pursue a MS or DNP in these areas or may choose to pursue a PhD to gain additional preparation for faculty, administrative and research careers.

What is the difference between a two-year (associate's) and a four-year (bachelor's) degree in nursing?

A person who wishes to become a Registered Nurse (RN) can attain that goal in a couple of different ways. They can go to a baccalaureate program (BSN), like the one at KU, or they can attend a two-year program and graduate with an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN). Upon completion of either the BSN or ADN, the student can then sit for the Registered Nurse exam. After successful completion of the exam, a person is licensed as a RN.

The big difference between the two degrees, other than length, is that the BSN goes into more detail in the nursing courses - a student gets more variety and exposure to different arenas within the health care field. Although there are similarities between the prerequisite courses a student must complete for both degree programs, a BSN student has a broader social and biological science background and a wider variety of clinical lab experiences. It is important to remember that ADN programs vary from institution to institution. Interested students should contact the college of their choice to get additional information.

The University of Kansas School of Nursing offers a variety of traditional and online programs, including:

- * Traditional BSN
- * RN-to-MS
- * Master's
 - Clinical Nurse Specialist
 - Nurse Leader
 - * Organizational Leadership
 - * Healthcare Informatics
 - * Public Health Nursing
 - * Clinical Research Manager
 - Nurse-Midwife
 - Nurse Practitioner
 - * Adult/Gerontological
 - * Psychiatric/Mental Health
 - * Family Nurse Practitioner
- * Online RN-to-BSN degree completion
- * Post-Master's Certificates
 - * Family Nurse Practitioner
 - * Healthcare Informatics
 - * Health Professions Educator
 - * Nurse-Midwife
 - * Organizational Leadership
 - * Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
 - * Public Health Nursing
- * Doctoral
 - * BSN-to-PhD
 - * BSN-to-DNP
 - * MS-to-PhD
 - * MS-to-DNP



For more information about careers in nursing and the KU School of Nursing programs, contact Student Affairs at (913) 588-1619 or via email at soninfo@kumc.edu. Visit our Web site at www2.kumc.edu/son.

KUMC is an AA/EO/Title IX Institution.

NURSING FACTS

Nursing Role...

Nurses care for individuals who are healthy and ill, of all ages and cultural backgrounds, and who have physical, emotional and psychological needs.

Did you know.....?

- Nurses comprise the largest single component of hospital staff and currently hold the largest number of jobs in the complex health care environment.
- As the backbone of patient care, nurses are the primary providers of hospital patient care and deliver most of the nation's long-term care.

Nursing Careers...

- Nursing is the nation's largest health care profession with more than 2.5 million registered nurses (RNs) nationwide.
- Nurses work in a variety of positions including direct patient care and case management with opportunities to work with people from all walks of life.
- With over 50 specialties in which RNs can become certified, nurses deliver care in a wide range of settings.
- Nurses work in businesses, medical offices, medical clinics, armed forces, private homes and public agencies in all forms of clinical practice.
- Job growth for RNs is expected to climb as much as 23 percent through 2016 compared to an average of 14 percent for all occupations.

Career Paths

Clinicians

Clinical Nurses - Provide scientific, psychological and technological care and knowledge to patients and their families.

Advanced Practice Nurses - Provide primary care and specialized nursing services to patients. Includes clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists and nurse-midwives.

Educators - Utilize educational methods to present current information to students in patient care settings at universities and colleges. Includes clinical instructors and university professors.

Administrators - Coordinate the use of human, financial and technological resources to provide patient care.

Researchers - Use research methods to discover or establish facts, principles and relationships.

Nursing Education...

Today's registered nurses have an array of options for education. Students interested in nursing as a career can choose from a number of educational paths.

- Associate Degree in Nursing - is a two-year associates degree offered through community colleges.
- Diploma Programs - are three-year certificate-training programs receiving hospital certification.
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing - is a four-year degree from a university. The BSN program level develops the clinical and critical thinking skills that many employers demand.
- Master's Degree in nursing - is offered after completion of a BSN. After a BSN, some students elect to earn a master's in clinical nursing, nurse practitioner, midwifery, nursing administrator, or nurse anesthesiology.
- Doctoral Degree in Nursing - can be pursued after completion of the bachelor of science and/or master's degrees. These degree programs prepare graduates for faculty, administrative, advanced clinical and research positions.