

## What does a Nurse do?

Registered nurses assess, treat, care for and support patients in hospitals, clinics, residential care facilities and their homes. Nurses provide care to improve patients' health by administering immunisations, medication, and intravenous drugs. Nurses monitor and assess patients' conditions and record changes, as well as visit and educate patients, their whānau, and communities about health needs, long term effects, and prevention of accidents and illness. There are various types of nurses, such as enrolled, charge, clinical, and practitioner nurses. Hours greatly vary for nurses depending on their role and place of employment and may require long shifts working in stressful situations where they may come in contact with diseases and bodily fluids.

## Salary

Pay for a registered nurse varies depending on experience, duties and responsibilities. New graduate nurses earn about \$47,000 a year. Those with three to five years' experience can earn between \$54,000 and \$68,000. Senior nurses with more experience and responsibility can earn between \$68,000 and \$114,000.

## What subjects do I need to take at school?

- ❖ Maths
- ❖ English
- ❖ Biology
- ❖ Chemistry
- ❖ Physics

NCEA Level 3 is required to enter tertiary training. A combination of these useful subjects will help you become a well-rounded candidate for a career in nursing.

## How do I get into it?

To become a registered nurse you need to have:

- ✓ a Bachelor of Nursing **or** Bachelor of Health Sciences, which takes 3 years of training
- ✓ registered with the Nursing Council of New Zealand
- ✓ a current Annual Practising Certificate
- ✓

Entry requirements vary based on the type of nurse you want to be:

- ❖ *Enrolled nurse*: Diploma in Enrolled Nursing; have a limited scope of practice and work under the supervision of a registered nurse or nurse practitioner.
- ❖ *Nurse practitioner*: Master's degree in nursing or health science that involves 300 hours of supervised on-the-job training; pass nurse practitioner exam; at least 4 years' experience in specific area of practice; pass Nursing Council assessment

- ❖ *Plunket nurse*: Postgraduate Certificate in Primary Health Care Specialty Nursing (Level 8) through Whitireia NZ, after working for 6 months as a registered nurse
- ❖ *Practice nurse*: Current cardio-pulmonary resuscitation certificate and a certificate of competence in vaccinations or cervical screening

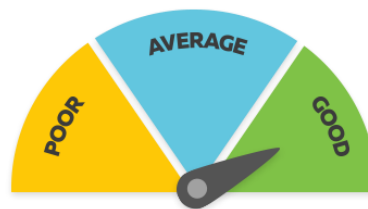
### ***Interpersonal skills***

Registered nurses need to be skilled at:

- ❖ Communicating
- ❖ problem solving
- ❖ organization
- ❖ working under pressure and remaining calm in emergencies
- ❖ showing compassion
- ❖ patience
- ❖ keeping information private

Useful experience for those wanting to seek a career in nursing can include social work, community support work, hospital-based work, health related work and teaching. Nurses should also be reasonably fit, as they may have to spend long hours on their feet and sometimes have to lift patients.

There are 19 institutions that offer nursing courses. [Click here](#) to explore options.



### **Will I get a job after training?**

Chances of finding work as a registered nurse are high for experienced nurses, especially in the West Coast and South Canterbury regions of New Zealand. The best way to get a nursing job as a new graduate is to apply for a new entry to practice (NETO) or nursing entry to specialist practice (NESP) position through the advanced choice of employment (ACE) programme. Employers in this programme provide support for graduates in their first year of nursing work. Otherwise, it may take graduate nurses three to 12 months to find work, with more opportunities in aged care nursing.

Registered nurse appears on Immigration New Zealand's immediate skill shortage list, meaning the Government is actively encouraging skilled registered nurses in aged care from overseas to work in NZ. About half of nurses are employed by district health boards in hospital and community settings. Others work for private hospitals, primary health organizations, nursing homes, private providers, prisons, schools, and Plunket. The Ministry of Health runs a voluntary bonding scheme aimed at recruiting more graduate nurses to work in specialist areas that are hard to staff. Graduates are bonded for three years and after this they receive extra payments for up to five years.

### **Where can I find out more?**

- **New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO)**

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