

Nurse Practitioner



What do they do?

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are advanced practice Registered Nurses (RNs) that can work either independently or as part of a health care team to diagnose and treat acute and chronic illnesses for people through out their lifespan. Many NPs function as primary care providers in clinics. While RNs can only dispense medications, NPs can prescribe them to their patients.

Where do they work?

Nurse Practitioners can work in a variety of settings including office practices, clinics, hospitals, universities and outpatient care centers.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Nurse Practitioners is \$117,670.



Education:

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) must obtain a bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN) and either a master's of nursing (MSN) or a doctorate of nursing practice (DNP). Many programs are moving toward DNPs as the standard for Nurse Practitioners as this is seen as similar practitioner training as a medical degree.

Nurse Practitioner training in Wisconsin:

Marquette University: www.marquette.edu/grad/Nursing.shtml

UW-Oshkosh: con.uwosh.edu/master-of-science-in-nursing

UW-Milwaukee: uwm.edu/nursing/academics/masters

UW-Madison: www.son.wisc.edu/academics-dnp.htm

High School students interested in becoming a Nurse Practitioner should take courses in biology, chemistry, anatomy and physiology.

Accreditation:

Education programs for Nurse Practitioners are accredited by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

www.aacn.nche.edu



Professional Association:

American Association of Nurse Practitioners:

www.aanp.org



Certification & License:

Graduates of an accredited Nursing Practice program must pass the AANPCP National Certification Examinations. These are for entry-level Nurse Practitioners evaluating their knowledge and expertise of each of these areas:

Adult Nurse Practitioner

Family Nurse Practitioner

Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

www.aanpcert.org

At the state level a Nurse Practitioner must be licensed through The Wisconsin Board of Nursing through the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing under the State of Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services

www.graduatenuisingedu.org/wisconsin

www.dsps.wi.gov



Potential for Specialization:

While many NPs work in preventative primary care, others choose to specialize in areas such as:

Midwifery

Dermatology

Nurse Anesthetists

Psychiatry



Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Nurse Practitioners is expected to grow 45 percent between 2020-2030, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Nurse Practitioners, www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm (visited September 08, 2021).

