

## Nurse Practitioner

### ■ Job Description

Working with a physician, a nurse practitioner provides general medical care and treatment of patients, including performing physical exams, assessing patients' clinical problems, and recommending medication or other forms of treatment. Nurse practitioners examine patients; order, interpret, and evaluate diagnostic tests; record physical findings; formulate treatment plans and prognoses; make referrals to physicians if indicated; and determine when the patient has recovered.

Nurse practitioners may specialize in one of the following areas: pediatric, neonatal, adult, geriatric, obstetric/gynecological, family, or school practice.

### ■ Job Settings

Clinics, health centers, physician's private practices, and public health agencies

### ■ Projected Need

Nationally, the number of jobs for registered nurses is expected to increase faster than average through 2010. In Illinois, registered nurse is one of the 10 occupations expected to provide the most job openings each year.

The specialty of nurse practitioner is expected to grow much faster than average, since these nurses perform advanced diagnosis and treatment procedures and may be utilized in areas in which medical care is needed, but a physician is not necessarily available. Besides hospitals, areas where opportunities should be good for nurse practitioners include HMOs, clinics, group practices and ambulatory care centers.

### ■ Salaries

Salaries vary considerably, depending on place of employment and geographic location, employment status (part-time or full-time), and area of specialization. A national survey conducted in 2001 reports an average annual salary for nurse practitioners (all specialties) of \$63,172.

According to the Year 2000 Survey of Registered Nurses in Illinois, 72% of the nurse practitioners surveyed reported earning between \$50,000 and \$75,000 per year.

### ■ Related Careers

Nurse midwife, physician assistant, clinical nurse specialist, and physician. Some nurse practitioners will combine training with a physician assistant's program.

### ■ Differences in Training

There are nine locations for nurse practitioner training in Illinois: Rush University, University of Illinois at Chicago, St. Xavier University, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Loyola University Medical Center, Northern Illinois University, North Park University, Illinois State University, and DePaul University.

### ■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

*The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/>. You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.*

[Adult Health Nursing](#)

[Nurse Practitioner](#)

[Pediatric Nursing](#)

[Registered Nursing](#)

### ■ Credentials

Licensing as an advanced practice nurse is required from the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation for certified nurse practitioners. Licensing requirements include a current Illinois registered nurse license; approved current national certification in the specialty; and successful completion of a master's program.

National certification exams are offered by a variety of bodies. Pediatric nurse practitioners are certified

by the National Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Associates (NBPNA) and by the American Nursing Association (ANA). Adult, family, school, pediatric, acute care, and geriatric nurse practitioners are certified by the ANA. Individuals sitting for the ANA exams are required to have a master's degree.

## ■ Resources

Illinois Nurses Association  
105 W. Adams Street, Suite 2101  
Chicago, IL 60603  
Phone: 312.419.2900  
E-mail: [info@illinoisnurses.com](mailto:info@illinoisnurses.com)  
<http://www.illinoisnurses.org>

The association awards two to four scholarships of \$1,000 to \$1,500 each to student members of the Student Nurse Association of Illinois.

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
P.O. Box 12846  
Austin, TX 78711  
Phone: 512.442.4262  
E-mail: [admin@aanp.org](mailto:admin@aanp.org)  
<http://www.aanp.org>

Twice annually, the AANP Foundation offers educational scholarships of \$1,000 and \$2,000 to master's, post-master's and doctoral nurse practitioner students.

American College of Nurse Practitioners  
1111 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 404  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202.659.2190  
E-mail: [acnp@acnpweb.org](mailto:acnp@acnpweb.org)  
<http://www.nurse.org/acnp>

American Nurses' Association  
600 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Suite 100 West  
Washington, DC 20024  
Phone: 800.274.4262  
<http://www.ana.org>