

NURSING

As an essential link in the healthcare chain, nurses provide care prescribed by doctors and participate in the diagnostic process and in the development of a care protocol, which they provide to patients (taking blood pressure and temperature, conducting pain assessments, applying and changing dressings, taking blood samples, giving injections, verifying that medical tools are functioning properly, preparing and distributing medication, and preparing the operating room). Nurses monitor the condition of patients and brief doctors on the information they gathered. They also maintain the relationship between the patient and the hospital, speak to families, and offer psychological support.

Nurses handle administrative tasks and ensure the proper documentation of medical records, monitor equipment, and manage medication stocks. Although nurses work in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team (anesthesiologists, surgeons, physical therapists, and doctors), they can also supervise unlicensed assistive personnel.

Trained nurses obtain official government certification through a nursing school. The training follows the framework of the European licence-master's-doctorate (LMD) system, giving the nursing certification a status equal to that of a bachelor's degree (licence), which is recognized throughout the European Union and allowing for the continuation of studies in the field of healthcare.

INTERNATIONAL

One of the advantages of an official nursing certification is professional flexibility and facilitated mobility throughout all of France, including its overseas departments and territories.

In addition, an official nursing certification is recognized throughout the European Union and Switzerland.

Doctors Without Borders, the Red Cross, Handicap International, and Doctors of the World are only some of the many French NGOs and associations that call upon nurses on all continents.

PLEASE NOTE:

Holders of a nursing certification from outside the European Union (EU) cannot practice in France.

RELATED FIELDS

• Anesthesiology • oncology • surgery • ethics • gerontology • infectious diseases • medicine • medico-social services • paramedic sector • pediatrics • pharmacology • psychiatry • psychology • childcare • intensive care • mental health • public health

SUBFIELDS

• Personal care • nutrition • infant care • surgical units • extended care • childcare • clinical processes • diagnosis • disability • day-care • hospital care • hygiene • hospitalization • acquired infections • laboratories • nursing homes • maternity units • medical technicians • surgery • post-operative care • pre-operative care • health-care • trauma care • pain management • child and maternal care • quality of care • radiology • rehabilitation • retraining • reinsertion • school health services • palliative care • intensive care • daily care • emergency care • medical supervision • treatment

BY THE NUMBERS

- 600,000 practicing nurses in France (in hospitals, schools, and businesses, or self-employed)
- 350 nursing schools (IFSI)
- 414,375 hospital beds (2010)
- 21,939 pharmacies, 3,888 laboratories (2012)
- 2,701 public and private institutions (2010)
- 33 regional hospitals (2010)

Sources : INSEE - www.insee.fr

USEFUL LINKS

- Association Nationale des Étudiants Infirmiers: www.etudiantinfirmier.com
- Association Nationale des Puéricultrices Diplômées et des Étudiantes (ANPDE): www.anpde.asso.fr
- Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance (CNED), online preparation for the nursing school entrance examination: www.cned.fr
- Comité d'entente des formations infirmières et cadres (CEFIEC): www.cefiec.fr
- Communauté Infirmière Française: www.infirmiere.com
- International Council of Nurses: www.icn.ch
- ENIC-NARIC France>List of professions>Nurse: www.ciep.fr/enic-naricfr/prof_i.php
- Fédération Hospitalière de France: www.hopital.fr
- Fédération Nationale des Infirmières: www.fni.fr
- Ministry of Health Career Profile: www.santé.gouv.fr/infirmier,10821.html
- Nursing schools: www.infirmiers.com>Concours IFSI>Liste des écoles
- Healthcare careers: www.metiersdelasante.com
- Doctors and healthcare professionals: www.stethonet.org
- Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Welfare: www.sante.gouv.fr/metiers-de-la-sante
- Professions in the healthcare field: www.cadredesante.com
- Nursing student reform regulations: www.sante.gouv.fr/la-reforme-des-etudes-en-soins-infirmiers.html
- Soins, étude et recherche en psychiatrie: www.serpsy.org

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NURSING SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Acceptance to a nursing school is determined by examination and a high school diploma (baccalaureate) or equivalent. It is possible to take several examinations organized by each nursing school if the examination dates are different.

Each nursing school organizes its own examinations, except for some large hospitals (in the Paris region, for example) that offer joint examinations.

Nursing school entrance examinations consist of two written components:

- One examination on general knowledge on current health and social topics, with three questions related to a 1- to 2-page text (2 hours).
- Ability tests (2 hours).

Admission is granted if the average of the two grades is greater than or equal to 20/40 and if the candidate did not receive a grade of less than 8/20. For the oral admission test, the candidate must give a short presentation on a health or social topic, followed by a question-and-answer session with the panel, which allows the panel members to assess the candidate's skills and professional goals. If the grade is less than 10/20, the candidate is rejected.

ACQUIRING NURSING SKILLS

Once admitted to a nursing school, training focuses on the **acquisition of 10 specific skills**:

- Assessing a clinical situation and establishing a diagnosis in the nursing field;
- Assisting a person by providing daily care;
- Creating and implementing a care plan;
- Implementing therapies and actions needed to make a diagnosis;
- Initiating and implementing educational and preventative care;
- Communicating and managing relationships in the context of care
- Analyzing the quality of care and improving one's professional practices;
- Research, processing, and analysis of professional and scientific data;
- Organizing and coordinating care interventions; and
- Informing and training professionals and trainees.

The duration of the training program is three years, divided into six 20-week semesters, totaling 1,800 hours of theoretical coursework at 35 hours per week (courses and/or internship), and 2,100 hours of clinical rotations. Attendance is mandatory during seminars, rotations, and internships.

DISTRIBUTION OF TRAINING AND INTERNSHIPS

- Theoretical training: 2,100 hours
- Clinical training: 2,100 hours

Training consists of 4 types of training units:

- Contributive knowledge in nursing (trauma care, infectious diseases, hygiene, and pharmacology);
- Nursing knowledge (clinical approach, care plans);
- Integration and mobilization of knowledge in a given situation (emergency care, palliative care); and
- Methodology and interdisciplinary knowledge (ITC, English).

Each student completes 6 internships during the course (1 per semester), totaling 60 weeks (2,100 hours).

There are 4 types of internships in healthcare:

- Persons hospitalized in public or private institutions;
- Mental health and psychiatry;
- Long-term care and aftercare and rehabilitation; and
- In-home collective or individual care.

Remuneration ranges from €90 to €150 per month depending on level.

EVALUATION OF NURSING TRAINING

The state diploma validates the course, and passing an examination consists of two tests:

- Writing and defending an end-of-study dissertation; and
- A professional simulation during an internship in the third year of studies.

The assessment of skills depends on the institution and may consist of continuous assessment or a final examination, or a combination of the two. In the European credit transfer system (ECTS), each training unit corresponds to a set number of credits, with one semester corresponding to 30 credits and one year of training to 60 credits. The training units can be accumulated and compensated for, and grades from different training units can be balanced according to their coefficients over the course of a semester. While certain grades lead to rejection, in cases of failure, it is possible to re-take the course during the next session.

PLEASE NOTE:

Each student must write a dissertation at the end of the 3rd year. This is the written test for the state diploma. The approximately 20-page paper is defended before a panel consisting of two examiners designated by the nursing school director.

STATE PEDIATRIC NURSING CERTIFICATES (STATE NURSING DIPLOMA + 1 YEAR) – M1

This program also follows the European LMD system at the master's 1 level. A pediatric nurse specializes in the medical care of infants and children and works in tandem with parents in raising children. They work in hospitals, maternity and pediatric departments, and maternal and infant care centers, or lead a daycare or childcare center.

Fields: Knowledge of and familiarity with children from birth to adolescence, assessment of the mental and psychological development of children.

STATE SURGICAL NURSING CERTIFICATES (STATE NURSING DIPLOMA + 1½ YEARS) – M1

This program is available after two years of professional nursing experience. Surgical nurses work under the supervision of a surgeon or head nurse. They prepare the room before an operation and verify that all surgical equipment is functioning. They also receive the patients, prepare them, and support them, both physically and emotionally. During the operation, the surgical nurse is responsible for the compresses and tools and gives them to the surgeon as needed.

Fields: Surgery, pre- and post-operative care, care during operations.

STATE NURSE ANESTHETIST CERTIFICATE (STATE NURSING DIPLOMA + 2 YEARS) – M2

This program is available after two years of professional nursing experience.

Fields: Anesthesiology, emergency medicine, pain management.

MASTER'S IN HEALTHCARE SPECIALIZED IN NURSING (STATE NURSING DIPLOMA + 2 YEARS) – M2

3 master's programs are offered by the École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique (EHESP) and the University of Aix-Marseille (AMU) for a specialization:

- Advanced practices in oncology;
- Advanced practices in gerontology;
- Case management.