

The highest level of nursing education I plan to complete would be either my masters or my doctorate. I plan to work as a registered nurse for a few years to gain experience, then return to school for my nurse practitioner license. Nurse practitioners may work in clinics, nursing homes, hospitals, private clinics. They may even work independently. Nurse practitioners conduct physical examinations, take medical histories, diagnose and treat common acute minor illnesses and injuries, order and interpret laboratory tests and radiographs, and counsel and educate patients.

Masters programs such as masters of science or masters of nursing have usual requirements such as a bachelor's degree from a program that is accredited in nursing by the ACEN, CCNE, or CNEA, licensure as an RN, completion of the GRE or MAT, and a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0. Majority of the programs are at least 18 to 24 months of full time study. Some of the most common areas of role preparation include education, administration, case management, healthy policy or health care systems, informatics.

Doctorates programs include doctorate of nursing science or doctorate of philosophy. There is a growing need for administrators, policy analysts, clinical researchers, and clinical practitioners in the community and governmental agencies. These programs are often three to five years of full time study. Admission requirements include a current masters degree as well as an average GPA of 3.0 or more.