

There are many different career paths one can take within the occupation of being a nurse. For this very reason, I am unsure what position I will land myself years from now, however, I do know that I would like to continue learning, growing, and expanding my knowledge of the nursing field.

I say this now, however, I may find myself in a different disposition years from now, however, I think I would like to continue my career up until I obtain my Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) or possibly even going to medical school. As of right now, I plan on graduating with my RN diploma in May of 2024 and then (hopefully) starting my baccalaureate program in the Fall. Getting my BSN automatically opens many doors within the nursing field, and some hospitals usually require you to obtain your BSN within a certain number of years after hire. With a BSN, I could take on the roles of staff nurse, nurse manager, clinical nurse educator, clinical research, case management, and a multitude of other positions.

Continuing on to my Master's degree would allow me to take on the role of a certified nurse educator. This role is important because almost every healthcare facility is experiencing a shortage of nurses and it's important to have educators teaching the next generation of nurses and ensuring that they succeed. However, the role I would be the most interested in that requires a minimum education level of a Master's degree is a Nurse Practitioner or a Certified Nurse Anesthetist. These are advanced specialized roles as providers practicing under a doctor. Nurse practitioners are seen anywhere from a family health practice to an emergency room (definitely what I'm the most interested in). CRNAs safely administer anesthetics under the supervision of an anesthesiologist. However, rumor has it that nurse practitioner programs may switch to a doctorate program.

Finally, if I were to continue on to my DNP, it would mainly be if nurse practitioner programs switch to requiring a doctorate degree. However, I could also go to medical school if I have a strong desire to become a medical provider. I love the nursing profession and there's no doubt that it's extremely important in the healthcare field, however, provider's are just as important and as a person who loves to learn, I could definitely see myself continuing my education all the way to a DNP or a MD/DO.

As for now, I will continue to work towards my RN diploma, passage of the NCLEX-RN, and hopefully begin working as an emergency room nurse until I figure out my next educational/career path.