CAREERS IN…. 

The American Nurses’ Association defines nursing as “the diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual or potential health problems.” Nurses care for patients in a variety of settings, from homes to clinics to rehabilitation centers to hospitals. Their care varies depending on what type of facility and what specialty they work in. Nurses working in primary care offices may take blood pressure readings, give physical examinations, and handle machines and monitors. Those working in a maternity ward might take part of labor coaching and providing initial, critical medical care for newborns. In general, there are five steps to nursing: 1) Assessment, 2) Diagnosis, 3) Planning, 4) Implementation, and 5) Evaluation. The job functions vary greatly with specialty and setting, but the objective is consistently to showing care and concern to patients while providing health care.

The 56 credit Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at William Paterson University is housed in the College of Science and Health. Aside from 56 credits in the major, there are 36 co-requisite credits that include courses from biology, chemistry, math, and psychology. Graduates of the BSN program are eligible to take the NCLEX exam to become a registered professional nurse. A clinical laboratory and on-campus learning center aids are key components to the program. Major courses include, but are not limited to, Nursing as a Profession, Adaptation Nursing, Nursing Research, and Community Systems.

WPUNJ Nursing: http://www.wpunj.edu/cos/nursing/  
WPUNJ Admissions: http://www.wpunj.edu/admissions/undergraduate/academic-programs/programs_detail.dot?id=126004

Interests & Skills:

* Critical thinking skills  
* Ability to analyze data  
* Multi-tasking skills and ability to work under pressure  
* Quick decision making skills  
* Excellent oral and written communication skills  
* Strong attention to detail  
* Manual dexterity  
* Numerical computation skills

Work Environment:

People working within the field of nursing have several options in terms of work environment. Nurses may choose to work in various hospital departments such as pediatrics, surgical, emergency, critical care, maternity, women’s health, intensive care, cancer treatment, mental health, operating/recovery room; personal homes as a home health care nurse; schools and universities; physician’s offices; large corporations; daycare centers; health departments; senior centers; mental health facilities; religious organizations; social service agencies; armed forces; in government agencies such as the Peace Corps; wellness centers; pharmaceutical companies; law firms; and clinics.

Possible job titles:

* Acute Care nurse  
* Maternity nurse  
* Adult Health Care  
* Rehabilitation nurse  
* Family Nursing  
* Mental health nurse  
* Hospital Administrator  
* Neurological nurse  
* Public health nurse  
* School health nurse  
* Critical care nurse  
* Primary ambulatory care  
* Oncology nurse  
* Nurse researcher  
* Administrator of Educational Programs  
* Adolescent Nurse Specialist  
* Pulmonary nurse  
* Ambulatory Child Health  
* Emergency surgical nurse  
* Cardiovascular nurse  
* Neonatal care nurse  
* Psychiatric nurse  
* Occupational health  
* Correctional health nurse  
* Physiological nurse  
* Diabetes nurse  
* Trauma unit nurse  
* Administration of Nursing Services  
* Medical-surgical nurse  
* Ambulatory Care  
* Respiratory nurse  
* Anesthesia nurse  
* Midwife  
* College/University nurse  
* Nursing health policy  
* Community health nurse  
* Pediatric nurse  
* Developmental disabilities nurse  
* Spinal cord injury nurse practitioner  
* Gerontology nurse
WPUNJ Alumni:

Nurse Manager Emergency Department
Beth Israel Hospital
Education Consultant
Joint Point
Chair of the Department of Nursing
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President for Nursing
Mount Sinai Medical Center
Case Manager
Always There
Registered Nurse
Valley Hospital
Visiting Nurse
Community Medical Center
Assistant Director of Nursing
Regency Gardens Nursing Home
RN, Postpartum
St. Peter’s Hospital
RN, Oncology/Pediatrics
Hackensack University Medical Center
RN, Surgical/Orthopedics
Chilton Memorial Hospital
RN, Perinatal
St. Joseph’s Hospital
RN, Home Care
Valley Home Care
Clinical Research Associate
Greystone Psychiatric Hospital
Staff Nurse, Juvenile Retention
Schering Plough Research Institute
School Nurse
Bergen County Family Guidance
Staff Nurse, Spinal Cord Injuries
Soaring Heights Charter School
Assistant Director of Nursing
Kessler Rehabilitation

Enhance Your Qualifications:
Successful students tend to seek out opportunities to enhance their qualifications through a variety of means. Within nursing, some suggestions may include gaining practical experience through being a nurse’s aide or an internship/externship/practicum/job shadowing; joining a professional nursing organization; developing computer skills; getting involved in career-related organizations on campus; looking into the possibility of graduate school; and attending networking functions.

Related Web Sites:


National Student Nurses’ Association  www.nsna.org
American Nurses Association  www.nursingworld.org
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  www.aacn.org
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education  www.aacn.nehe.edu
Career Information  www.nurseuniverse.com
Career Information  www.nursezone.com
Occupational Outlook  www.bls.gov/oco/
Industry Information  www.vault.com
Job Search and Salary information  www.rileyguide.com
Occupation Information  online.onetcenter.org

Other sources:
Please drop by the Career Development and Advisement Center to learn more about careers in nursing. The career library carries career-specific books and counselors are available to answer any further questions you may have. Visiting the Nursing Department on campus may also prove valuable in addressing questions.

Compliments of:
The Career Development and Gloria S. Williams Advisement Center
http://www.wpunj.edu/career-advisement
973-720-2281/2653/2559