

Information to Consider When Selecting a Nursing Program

The following information should be considered when selecting a nursing program:

1. What is the goal of your nursing career? This may help you to decide if you want to graduate from a PN, ADN or BSN program.
 - a. PN graduates are eligible to take the LPN licensure examination. Their tasks and responsibilities are based on acceptable educational preparation within the framework of supportive and restorative care under the direction of the registered professional nurse, a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or a person licensed to practice dentistry. Their employment opportunities are more limited than employment opportunities for RNs.
 - b. ADN graduates are eligible to take the RN licensure examination. They have specialized knowledge that is applied to the care, diagnosis, treatment, counsel and health teaching of persons who are experiencing changes in the normal health processes or who require assistance in the maintenance of health or the prevention or management of illness or injury; administration, supervision or teaching of the process and the execution of the medical regimen as prescribed by a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or a person licensed to practice dentistry. They can be employed in a variety of settings (examples include: acute care, long term care, clinic, community health).
 - c. BSN graduates are eligible to take the RN licensure examination. They have specialized knowledge that is applied to the care, diagnosis, treatment, counsel and health teaching of persons who are experiencing changes in the normal health processes or who require assistance in the maintenance of health or the prevention or management of illness or injury; administration, supervision or teaching of the process and the execution of the medical regimen as prescribed by a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or a person licensed to practice dentistry. They can work in a variety of settings (examples include: acute care, long term care, clinic, community health and management roles).
2. Admission criteria of program
3. Criteria to progress in the program
4. Number of students admitted to the program and number of students who graduate from the program
5. Delivery method of nursing courses
6. Cost of program
7. Ask the Nursing Program Administrator the number of qualified applicants who apply to the program
8. Student to instructor ratio
9. Clinical experiences across the life span associated with the program (look for a variety of clinical settings)
10. NCLEX multi-year pass rates for the program (% of graduates who pass NCLEX on first attempt – information available on www.ksbn.org)
11. National Accreditation status of the program and the implications for students (if graduates are wanting to continue educational advancement, will the program accept graduates from programs not nationally accredited)
12. Articulation agreements (agreements with other institutions for students to continue with further education and receive credit for courses completed)
13. If considering out-of-state program, check with the State Board of Nursing in which you are planning to seek licensure to determine criteria for out of state program approval