

THE PROFESSION OF NURSING IN NEW JERSEY



Nursing should be considered a professional degree

NJ needs more APNs, nurse educators, nurse leaders, and nurse scientists to meet the healthcare needs of an aging NJ population.

NURSING WORKFORCE IN NJ

- > 150,000 Registered Nurses (RNs)
- > 19,000 Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs)

39%

Growth of Nurse Practitioners is projected from 2024-2034 in NJ.

More than half of NJ's counties have a primary care provider and/or mental health care provider shortage.

80

Nurse faculty vacancies in 2024. Many nursing programs cannot increase enrollment because of lack of qualified faculty.

NURSE LICENSURE

- NJ Registered Nurses are required to pass a National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for initial RN licensure which must be renewed every two years with adherence to continuing education requirements.
- NJ Advanced Practice Nurses must pass an advanced practice examination in the area of specialization offered by a national certifying agency that is accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties and/or the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

4,264

RNs were advancing their education in a post-licensure nursing program in NJ in 2024.

NURSING EDUCATION

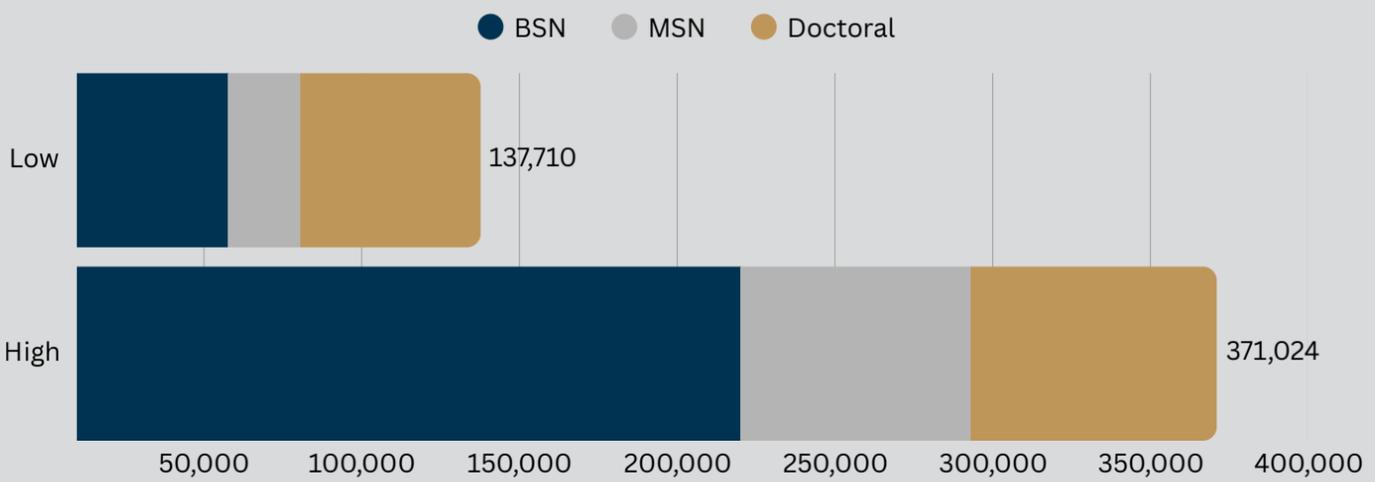
- The NJ Board of Nursing requires prelicensure nursing programs to include certain subjects (see table below). 74% of NJ RNs have a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- An RN with a graduate degree can work as an APN, nurse educator, nurse leader, or nurse scientist. These are critical roles for the preparation of our nursing workforce and delivery of safe, evidence-based, quality care.
- To work as an APN, such as a nurse practitioner, an RN must earn at least a Master's Degree, complete additional required content and clinical hours/competencies, pass a boards examination from national certifying agency.

Basic Nursing Education

Sciences	Social Sciences	Humanities
Promotion, Restoration, & Maintenance of Health Across the Lifespan	Evidence-Based Practice	The Structure & Economics of Healthcare Delivery Systems
Legal and Ethical Issues	Cultural Implications for Practice	Nurse Practice Act
Critical Thinking	Delegation, Management & Leadership	Organ, Tissue Donation & Recovery
Interdisciplinary Collaboration	Pain Management & End of Life Issues	Socialization to the Role of the Professional Nurse

TUITION COSTS IN NJ

The cost of nursing education for a Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degree combined ranges from \$137,719 - \$371,024 depending on the academic institution and in-state or out-of-state status. This is an estimate and may not include all fees and expenses.



NURSING STUDENT DEBT

The average student loan debt for an undergraduate degree across nursing schools in NJ for class of '24 ranged up to \$44,733.

\$23,650 - \$44,733

The average student loan debt for a nurse in an online MSN program in NJ for class of '23-24 ranged up to \$51,000.

\$25,375 - \$51,000

STUDENT LOAN NEEDS

Not all RNs work in an organization that may provide tuition reimbursement. Only 55% of RN respondents have a primary role in a hospital setting, while an estimated 15% of RNs may not be employed full-time.

55%

More than 55% of undergraduate students receive a student loan.

