

# NURSING EDUCATORS: Shaping 21st Century Health Care

A Guide to **Careers in the Essential Field of Nursing Education**



CAPELLA UNIVERSITY



# The Importance of Nursing Education

Perhaps more than ever, nursing education is vital to the effective and efficient delivery of American health care.

In academic settings, nursing educators play a critical role in equipping the next generation of nurses to meet tomorrow's health care challenges. In the clinical environment, nursing educators help busy RNs, MSNs, NPs, and others stay current on innovations and trends.





# Four Big Changes Affecting the Need for More Educators in Nursing



## **New technologies.**

Who will keep nurses up to date on new clinical technologies, recordkeeping software changes, and other digital innovations?



## **New laws, rules, and regulations.**

As the Affordable Care Act reshapes the health care landscape and federal and state regulations change, who will filter out what nurses need to know?



## **New models of care.**

As new organizational models sweep the industry, will nurses get the information they need to navigate the channels properly?



## **New demographics.**

As the American population ages and changes, who will help nurses adjust their approach to care for Baby Boomers?

## Who is preparing nurses?

Nursing educators are at the forefront of giving nurses the knowledge, skills, and tools they need to deal with changes. As health care is transformed, nursing education needs to deliver curricula that blend both time-tested principles and innovations in the field.

**The quality of tomorrow's patient care depends on the quality of nursing education that's delivered today.**





## Nursing Educators: A Positive Career Outlook

### Full-time faculty members are in high demand.

For more than a decade, America has faced a shortage of nursing educators. According to a report released by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, U.S. schools turned away almost 70,000 qualified applicants from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2014 because of an insufficient number of faculty (along with a handful of other factors).

### Nurses who can teach effectively are in short supply.

Like nursing, teaching requires a specific skill set. Increasingly, schools and hospitals are looking for nurses who have both extensive experience in nursing and educational credentials that demonstrate their ability to teach. A master's degree, a PhD, or a post-master's certificate in nursing education demonstrates to employers extensive learning in nursing teaching, as well as nursing content that is shared with students.

### Hospitals need nursing educators to keep staff current.

Nurses must be kept up-to-date on the latest practice guidelines and regulations that impact nursing care. Nursing educators update practicing RNs, BSNs, NPs, and others on topics that are integral to their success and critical to effective patient care.



## Is Nursing Education the Right Career for You?

Preparing students to become nurses requires a special skill set, as well as clinical expertise and experience. Most nursing education jobs come with a degree requirement as well. But more vital, you need to have a passion for developing staff or educating future nurses.

### Is nursing education a good match for you?

See if you fit the criteria on this checklist.

#### YOU:

- Enjoy learning about new things
- Like sharing information and insights with others
- Are a good communicator
- Are patient
- Are adaptable and have excellent social skills
- Wish to encourage others in the nursing field
- Want to have a broad-ranging — though indirect — impact on patient care
- Desire a more predictable or more flexible schedule
- Want a job that you can do (at least online in an academic setting) from anywhere in the world
- Have a passion for teaching
- Want to change lives
- Value nursing and care deeply about the future of the profession

If you responded yes to more than 9 of the 12 points above, you're probably a good candidate for nursing education.

**So what do you need to advance into the field?**  
The right degree or certificate.



# Careers in Nursing Education

Nursing educators work in a wide variety of academic and clinical settings. The right place for you probably depends on the kind of nurses you want to educate and the level of impact you want to have on patient care.

## Career options in nursing education include:



### Hospital positions

- Staff educator
- Nursing instructor
- Nurse educator
- Training and development specialist
- Patient educator
- Professional development specialist
- Clinical educator
- Community health educator
- Staff development educator



### Academic positions

- Adjunct or part-time nursing faculty
- Full-time nursing faculty
- Dean/associate dean

### Want a flexible or part-time schedule?

A growing number of nursing educators teach part-time while working in the clinical setting. This allows them to maintain a high degree of clinical competence while sharing their knowledge with less experienced nurses.

### Want to have a broader impact on health care research and policy?

Nursing educators enjoy opportunities to conduct research, publish articles in professional journals, speak at nursing conferences, and serve as consultants to education and health care institutions. They also write grant proposals, shape public policy, and participate in community service.



# What Will a Degree Qualify You to Do?

It depends on the degree.

A degree can make all the difference when it comes to hiring nursing educators. The additional education will set you apart from your peers, who may have experience but no particular training in teaching.

## What is CNE?

The Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) is a nursing certification and credential that demonstrates competencies in all aspects of academic nursing education. When you earn a CNE, you show that your knowledge of nursing education is recognized and professionally credible within the field of nursing.

This certification, according to the National League for Nursing (NLN), “establishes nursing education as a specialty area of practice and creates a means for faculty to demonstrate their expertise in this role. It communicates to students, peers, and the academic and health care communities that the highest standards of excellence are being met. By becoming credentialed as a Certified Nurse Educator, you serve as a leader and a role model.”

## Is CNE right for you?

If you’re interested in teaching in an academic setting and developing expertise in an educator role, the CNE is a meaningful — and potentially essential — certification. Teaching has become highly competitive, and the CNE credential may help a nursing educator trump an educator who doesn’t have the credential.



## The Degree You Need to Become a Nurse Educator

| YOU HAVE A...   | YOU COULD BE A...  | IN A...  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>BSN</b>  | Staff educator   | Hospital/Clinic or other health care setting   |
| <b>MSN in Nursing Education</b><br><b>MSN with a Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education</b> | Nurse educator*<br>Nursing faculty (full time, adjunct, or part time)*   | Hospital/Clinic or other health care setting<br>Long-term care facility<br>Community college                           |
| <b>DNP</b>  | Nurse educator*<br>Nursing administrator*<br>Executive leader*<br>Nursing faculty (full time, adjunct or part time)*<br>Dean or associate dean of a nursing program* | Hospital/Clinic or other health care setting<br>Community health or government agency<br>Health care organization      |
| <b>PhD in Nursing Education</b>   | Nursing faculty (full time, adjunct or part time)*<br>Dean or associate dean of a nursing program*<br>Executive leader*  | Hospital/Clinic or other health care setting<br>Land-based or online college or university<br>Health care organization |

\*Career advancement in nursing education may occur when you become credentialed as a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE)





Why Should You Choose Capella?





## Why Capella?

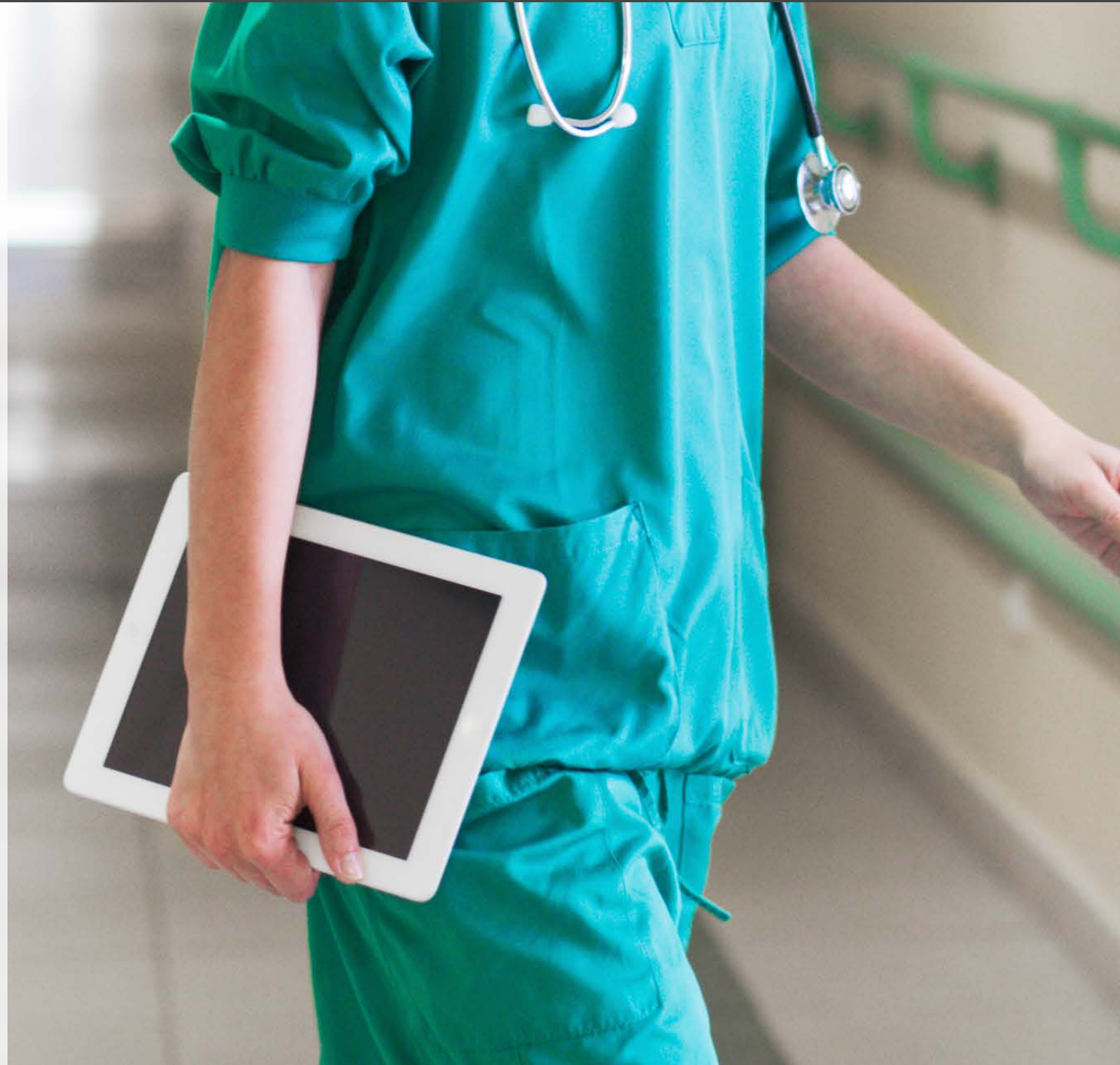
**Degree programs** aligned to industry standards.

**Learning experiences** that you can apply immediately in the field.

**Up-to-date curriculum and knowledgeable faculty** who are experts in nursing education.

**The most direct path to your goals** from online courses, with 24-hour access for the ultimate flexibility.

**An affordable education** with many financial support options.





## What Sets Capella Apart?

U.S. nursing schools need faculty who are prepared to teach the next generation of nurses. A certificate or degree in nursing education from Capella can help you enter this growing field.

## What programs does Capella offer?

- MSN Nursing Education
- RN-to-MSN Nursing Education
- vRN-to-BSN/MSN Combined
- Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education
- PhD Nursing Education
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)





## A Program that's **Professionally Aligned**

Capella's RN-to-MSN in Nursing Education, MSN in Nursing Education, and DNP are CCNE-accredited\* and incorporate the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) *Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing*.

Additionally, the requirements for Capella's RN-to-MSN, MSN, Post-Master's Certificate, and PhD in Nursing Education are aligned to the National League for Nursing (NLN) Core Competencies of Nurse Educators® and are designed to meet the educational requirements for the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) credential offered by the NLN.

\* The BSN, MSN, and DNP degree programs at Capella University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation>).

North Carolina learners must be certified by the National League of Nursing as nurse educators or complete nine graduate credit hours of educational content course work before they are able to teach in an academic setting.



# The Most Direct Path to Your Goals

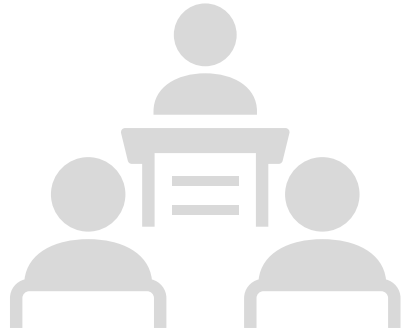
Capella’s nursing education programs are focused on the skills and knowledge you need to succeed in your career as a nurse educator, and are designed to put you on a direct path to your goals.

| PROGRAM                          | COMPLETE THE PROGRAM<br>IN AS LITTLE AS: |
|----------------------------------|--|
| MSN                              | 2 Years                                  |
| RN-to-MSN                        | 2.5 Years                                |
| RN-to-BSN/MSN<br>Combined Option | 3.25 Years                               |
| Post-Master’s Certificate        | 9 Months                                 |
| DNP                              | 2 Years                                  |
| PhD                              | 3.5 Years                                |

In addition, our nursing education courses are focused on real-world applications to ensure you’ll gain skills and knowledge you can immediately use in your career.

Capella’s approach to education is designed around the critical skills, knowledge, theories, and abilities — or competencies — required to master the subject matter in your degree program. You gain the relevant competencies you need to advance your career — and in the most efficient way.





## Relevant Curriculum

Capella's nursing education curriculum was designed to prepare nurse educators to facilitate learning, assess and evaluate learners in a variety of educational settings, and prepare nurses for a changing health care environment.

### Theories, Research, and Best Practices

- An **MSN or RN-to-MSN in Nursing Education** specialization prepares nurses for the advanced role of educator.
- You'll learn about curriculum design, delivery, evaluation, and assessment of nursing education programs.

### Add Value to an Advanced Degree

- A **Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education** is ideal for both MSN- and doctoral-prepared nurses who want to teach nursing in an academic or health care setting.
- You'll gain the knowledge and skills needed to facilitate learning strategies and implement nursing education programs.

### Become a Scholar-Practitioner

- A **DNP** prepares nurses to lead future nurses. You'll focus on practical nursing contributions to solve complex health care problems and shape systems of care.
- A **PhD in Nursing Education** prepares nurses for the advanced role of educators in academic settings. You'll contribute to new knowledge, research, and theory to lead the development of the profession.



## Hands-On Learning

In Capella's nursing education programs, you have an opportunity to manage real-world nursing education challenges — in our fail-safe, exclusive virtual lab environments.



## Affordability

Capella offers a per-credit cost with a variety of ways to make your degree even more affordable.

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## Scholarships

Capella frequently offers scholarship opportunities for new students to save thousands on their degree.

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## Military discount

Capella offers a discount of 10 percent to 15 percent to members of the military.

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## Employer and association discounts

Tuition discounts from Capella-affiliated employers, colleges, and professional associations can make your degree more affordable. Many employers offer tuition reimbursement to their employees — even those without a formal program. Check with your HR department or manager to see if you are eligible.



# Resources

## CAPELLA RESOURCES

### PROGRAMS

[MSN, Nursing Education](#)

[RN-to-MSN, Nursing Education](#)

[Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education](#)

[Doctor of Nursing Practice](#)

[PhD, Nursing Education](#)

[Calculate your costs and graduation date](#)

[Online learning at Capella](#)

[Scholarships for new students](#)

[Try a Capella trial course](#)

[Learn more about Capella](#)

### INDUSTRY RESOURCES

[NLN's Certified Nurse Educator \(CNE\) Credential](#)

[AACN's \*Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing\*](#)

[AACN Nursing Professional Development](#)



### CONTACT US:

**1.866.933.5819**

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See graduation rates, median student debt, and other information at [www.capellaresults.com/outcomes.asp](http://www.capellaresults.com/outcomes.asp) Accreditation: Capella University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Capella University: Capella Tower, 225 South Sixth Street, Ninth Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55402, 1.888.CAPELLA (227.3552), [www.capella.edu](http://www.capella.edu).

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