

Nursing

Nursing involves caring for individuals and communities by helping them stay healthy and emphasizing quality of life. Nurses focus on addressing the needs of the whole person and can provide care involving health promotion or restorative, supportive, or terminal care. Nursing programs are competitive and require strong academic skills and a solid background in biology.



Colorado Mesa University offers many different levels of nursing programs including Nurse Aide, Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse, Bachelor of Nursing, and graduate degree programs. Students can follow the nursing career ladder and start with a certificate program and gain work experience while working their way up to a Bachelor's degree or they can take all of their general education coursework first and go straight to their Bachelor's degree. Nursing programs at Colorado Mesa are very competitive and have separate application processes with selective admission requirements and application deadlines.

CMU Bachelor's Nursing Programs:

The [Bachelor of Science in Nursing](#) Program (BSN) provides educational experiences to prepare a professional nurse generalist to practice in a variety of health care settings. The program integrates nursing theory, practice, and science with a broad liberal arts education and provides a foundation for graduate school in nursing. The curriculum includes the use of fully equipped skills labs, high-tech simulation mannequins, and clinical placements in a variety of health care organizations and hospitals. It is designed to prepare graduates having met state licensure requirements to practice as a professional nurse, pursue graduate education, assume leadership roles, and promote learning as a lifelong process.

Graduates of the program are employed locally, state-wide and nationally. Employers have reported that graduates of the program are some of the best prepared in the state.

The [RN-BSN program](#) at Colorado Mesa University is an online program, allowing Registered Nurses with an Associate Degree or Diploma in Nursing to advance their degree and obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Registered Nurses can continue their employment with this flexible program by completing classes on a full-time or part-time basis and by taking courses online or in-person.

CMU Nursing Associate and Certificate Programs:

The [Practical Nurse Program](#) (PN Certificate) is located on the main CMU campus and offers students entry into the nursing career ladder program. The Practical Nursing (PN) program prepares students to be a direct care giver in hospitals, long-term facilities, and ambulatory care-clinic settings. Graduates from the CMU Practical Nurse program will receive preferential consideration for admission to the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program. (Proficiency in writing, math, and anatomy is required.)

The [LPN-AAS Program](#) enables students who are Licensed Practical Nurses to achieve an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (RN) Degree, opening up greater employment opportunities, increased compensation, and more job security. The AAS in Nursing prepares graduates as generalists to provide competent nursing care in a variety of health care settings. Upon completion, students are qualified to take the Registered Nurse Exam. Students will develop nursing skills in caring for a diverse population in today's health care settings. They will utilize data related to the client's biological, psychological, socio-spiritual, cultural and developmental needs to promote, maintain, and restore health.

The [Nurse Aide Program](#) (CNA) is located on the Western Colorado Community College campus. It prepares the student for employment as a nurse aide in hospitals, skilled care facilities, home health care, and hospice facilities. Basic nursing and personal care skills, legal and ethical issues, restorative services and recognition of the emotional, social, cultural, and individual rights of patients are all competencies covered in the coursework. Students practice these skills in an assigned clinical setting and are prepared to take the Certified Nurse Assistant's Exam at the end of the program.

A person in this career field may:

- Monitor patient care and accurately record symptoms and medications in patient charts
- Administer medications or start intravenous fluids
- Provide basic patient care such as taking blood pressure, treating wounds, or taking temperatures
- Measure patient vital signs
- Collect samples and perform routine laboratory tests on them
- Operate medical equipment like catheters, oxygen suppliers, and IV bags
- Inventory and order medical supplies, plan budgets, and manage staff
- Provide personal care to patients in nursing homes, private home settings, or hospitals such as keeping rooms orderly, seeing that patients are comfortable, and assisting with personal hygiene
- Collaborate with health care team to assess, plan, implement and evaluate patient care plans

Major Skills & Characteristics

- Critical thinking skills
- Caring and patient
- Ability to empathize and understand human behavior and development
- Counsel, instruct, & comfort
- Knowledge in biology and medicine
- Math skills
- Leadership and decision-making skills
- Interpersonal & written communication skills
- Ability to work with diverse people
- Work well under stress
- Prioritize multiple tasks
- Ability to collaborate and adapt
- Detail-oriented
- Physical stamina & manual dexterity

Campus Involvement:

- The [Student Nurses Association of Colorado Mesa University](#) provides a forum for nursing and pre-nursing students to gather and network, to serve the greater community through volunteering, and to raise awareness about the world of nurses.
- CMU also offers many [clubs and organizations](#) that can help students build connections and leadership skills.

Organizations That Commonly Employ Nursing Majors

- Assisted Living Centers
- Business & Industry
- Community Organizations
- Doctor's Offices
- Government Health Agencies
- Health/Wellness Organizations
- Home Health Care
- Hospices
- Hospitals
- Rehabilitation Agencies
- Research Centers
- Schools

Related Careers

- Acute Care Nurse
- Admin. of Nursing Services
- Admin. of Educational Programs
- Adolescent Nurse Specialist
- Adult Health Care
- Ambulatory Care
- Behavioral Health
- Cardiac Care Nurse
- Case Manager
- Charge Nurse
- College Faculty or Staff
- Community Health
- Correctional Health
- Critical Care Nurse
- Delivery Room Supervisor
- Developmental Disabilities
- Diabetes Nursing
- Emergency Surgical Nurse
- Family Nursing
- Gerontology
- Health Educator
- Home Health Nurse
- Hospital Administrator
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Maternity Nursing
- Medical-Surgical Nurse
- Mental Health
- Neonatal Nurse
- Neurological Nurse
- Nurse Anesthetist
- Nurse Midwife
- Nurse Researcher
- Nursing Health Policy Advisor
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Health Nurse
- Oncology Nurse
- Patient Care Assistant/Tech
- Pediatric Nurse
- Physiological Nursing
- Private Duty Nurse
- Psychiatric Nurse
- Psychosocial Nursing
- Public Health
- Pulmonary Nurse
- Registered Nurse
- Rehabilitation Nurse
- Respiratory Nurse
- School Nurse
- Spinal Cord Injury Nurse Practitioner
- Staff Development
- Trauma Nurse
- Transplant Coordinator
- Wellness Coordinator

Note: Some of the occupations listed above may require additional education, experience, or training beyond a Bachelor's Degree. To research these occupations use the Career Research Resources links below.

Career Research Resources:

Use these sites to research information about specific occupations such as nature of the work, training or qualifications, employment or job outlook, projections, earnings and wages.

O*NET-Online: <http://www.onetonline.org>

The U.S. Department of Labor

- In the occupational search box type in key words, job titles, or occupational codes to research various careers.

Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

The Bureau of Labor Statistics

- **View OOH information on Registered Nurses** at: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>
- **View OOH information on Healthcare Occupations** at: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/home.htm>
- Or use the Search field or A-Z index to research an occupation.

My Future.com: <http://www.myfuture.com>

The Department of Defense

- This site compiles information from departments of [Commerce](#), [Education](#) and [Labor](#).

Organizations and Associations Links

- American Nurses Association: www.nursingworld.org
- Sigma Theta Tau, Honor Society of Nursing: www.nursingsociety.org
- National Student Nurses Association: www.nсна.org
- American Holistic Nurses Association: www.ahna.org
- National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses: www.nflpn.org
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners: www.aanp.org
- National League for Nursing: www.nln.org
- The American Assembly for Men in Nursing: aamn.org
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses: www.aacn.org
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses: www.awhonn.org
- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses: www.aaohn.org

Job Listings/Job Search Sites:

- Nursing Jobs for Mesa Students: www.aftercollege.com/career-networks/colorado-mesa-university
- Nursing Careers Allied Health: www.ncah.com
- Nursing jobs: allnurses.com
- Nurse.com: www.nurse.com/jobs
- Healthcare Job Connection: www.hospitaljobsonline.com
- Health Careers Network: www.healthcareers.com
- MedJump: www.medjump.com
- Federal Government Jobs: www.usajobs.gov
- Action Without Borders: www.idealists.org
- Healthcare Jobs: <http://jobs.healthcaresource.com>
- Nursing Jobs: www.hirenursing.com
- Nursing Job Source: www.nursingjobsources.com