

Public Health Nursing

Public Health Nurses focus on disease prevention and the promotion of health and safety of individuals, families, groups and communities. They are able to work independently or with collaborative teams as they use education and problem-solving skills to empower communities. Public health nurses can focus on a wide variety of different job related areas such as communicable disease control, child health, adult health, community education, patient consultation, immunization, and many other areas of interest.



Public Health Nurses have a love of people and communities and want to impact the health and well being of others in a positive way. They work to assure access to affordable health services for all people, eliminating health disparities. The specialty practice of public health nursing is about promoting health and being an advocate for those who have no voice.



DID YOU KNOW?

Public Health Nursing is the practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social and public health sciences (APHA, Public Health Nursing Section, 1996.)

Public health nurses make up approximately 30% of the public health workforce in North Carolina.

Public health nurses rarely work 12 hour shifts but often put in extra hours to partner with the community, write grants, and connect with those who can make a difference in the health of others.

Public Health Nursing

Specialization

communicable disease and outbreak investigation, chronic disease control, occupational health, outbreak investigation, family and maternal health, home health, school health, immunization, research, disaster preparedness and much more

Work Environment

Local, state, and federal health agencies, schools, college/university campuses, research institutions, community or voluntary organizations, home health agencies and much more

Education Requirements

The minimum requirement to become a public health nurse includes licensure as a registered nurse in addition to supervised work experience in a school, health department or community setting. Bachelor nursing programs offer specific education in public health nursing. For more opportunities in the field of public health nursing, a master's degree is recommended and can be obtained through North Carolina schools of public health and nursing.

Potential Career Opportunities

Clinical Nurse | School Nurse | Community Health Program Director | Nurse Administrator / Supervisor | Home Health Nurse | Local Health Director | Occupational Health Nurse Professor | Patient Consultant | Grant Writer

Where can I go to study Public Health Nursing?

Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN)

- East Carolina University
- Fayetteville State University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- North Carolina Central University
- University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina - Charlotte
- University of North Carolina - Greensboro
- University of North Carolina - Pembroke
- University of North Carolina - Wilmington
- Western Carolina University
- Winston-Salem State University

Graduate Degrees in Public Health Nursing

- East Carolina University
- University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina - Charlotte

Most universities in the UNC system and most community colleges offer varied levels of certification and undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Nursing.

