



Health Careers In Alaska

www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info

Nurse Practitioner

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are registered nurses who have advanced education and clinical training in a health care specialty area. Nurse practitioners work with families and people of all ages. They provide care and information people need to improve their health and make informed decisions. Nurse practitioners may collaborate with physicians in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, or schools, or they can practice in their own clinics.

In rural areas, nurse practitioners often practice independently, performing many of the health care duties usually provided by a physician. These duties include obtaining medical histories and performing physical examinations, diagnosing and treating acute health problems and chronic diseases, taking

x-rays, performing lab tests, and prescribing medications and treatments. In addition, nurse practitioners provide prenatal care and family planning services, well-child care (including screening and immunizations), annual exams for adults, and health counseling and prevention services.

Nurse practitioners may specialize in areas such as: family practice, women's health, occupational health, oncology, neonatal, pediatrics, geriatrics, or psychiatry. Increasingly, they work in specialty clinics, with allergists, gynecologists, cardiologists, and others. Career options are virtually unlimited, and include employment as instructors in clinical and university settings, in research, administration, and further education at the doctorate level.

Nurse Practitioner Facts:

Where do nurse practitioners work in Alaska?

Nurse practitioners work in both rural and urban settings. Some of these settings include: community health centers, hospitals, clinics, public health departments, nursing homes, physician offices, and school and college student health clinics. In rural Alaska, employment opportunities are increasing for nurse practitioners. Clinics in the smaller regional centers, and hospitals or community health programs in the larger regional centers, provide most of the jobs.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with a college preparatory background.
- Completion of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing to become a registered nurse.
- Completion of at least one year of fulltime nursing experience.
- Completion of a Master of Science in Nursing. Specializing as a Family Nurse Practitioner is becoming standard, but programs are available for nurse practitioners in pediatrics, women's health, geriatrics, and others.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$28.00-\$50.63 (Mean \$38.15)

**based on Alaska DOL data*

Years in School:

5-7 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage

School of Nursing

Phone: (907) 786-4550

Email: aynurse@uaa.alaska.edu

Web site: <http://nursing.uaa.alaska.edu/>

Note: The University of Alaska Anchorage's School of Nursing has a master's degree program for Registered Nurses (RN) who hold a bachelor's degree. RNs may pursue a master's degree in the specialty area of Family Nurse Practitioner or Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

State Contact:

Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association (ANPA)

Phone: (907) 222-6847

Web site: <http://www.alaskanp.org/>

National Contacts:

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners

Phone: (512) 442-4262

Web site: <http://www.aanp.org>

American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP)

Phone: (703) 740-2529

Web site: <http://www.acnpweb.org>

