

0610-Nurse

Career Description

A medical career as a civilian nurse in the Department of Defense (DoD) is an exciting and fulfilling option if you want to make a difference in the lives of others. Working as a civilian nurse treating our wounded soldiers and their families, you will enjoy many of the same benefits of a military medical career without having to worry about deployment. You work side-by-side with military doctors and nurses at one of many military treatment facilities around the world. DoD nurses work in a variety of environments which typically include military hospitals or clinics. Projections of a nursing shortage are a multifaceted and expanding problem. The demand for nurses is being fueled by (1) the need to replace the growing number of nurses who are reaching retirement age and, (2) the growing need for new nurses to care for an increasingly elderly population. Innovations in treatment, preventative care, and new technology have also contributed to an increased demand for nurses. The Federal agencies with the highest population of nurses include the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs.

The primary need in DoD is for Register Nurse and Advanced Practice Register Nurses. Following are descriptions of these types of Nurses.

Registered Nurse (RN) provides day-to-day patient care with emphasis on medical procedures and drug administration, but also includes daily hygiene, mobility, and psychological and spiritual care. RN's have become collaborative professionals who help repair, maintain, and promote patients' health. ARN is distinguished from other nurses, such as licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants, by education level, treatment privileges, and independence. Only a registered nurse may assess and treat wounds, review diagnostic tests, and give medications ordered by a physician.

Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) are those who have fulfilled the general RN requirements, and then continue on to study at the Master's level or beyond. APRN's will typically focus these advanced studies in a particular medical specialty, in which they obtain a deeper level of knowledge and experience, whether it is oncology, anesthesiology, pediatrics, etc. APRN's are some of the highest paid nurses, and include Clinical Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA), which are the most advanced of all nurses, Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) and Nurse Practitioners (NP).

Education and Licensure

For entry level positions, the qualification requirements include completion of an Associate's degree **or** a diploma from a school of professional nursing that is approved by the appropriate State agency, and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) at the time of program completion.

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Salary and Benefits

DoD healthcare opportunities feature competitive starting salaries, and may include a higher salary rate in certain locations. The benefits package includes comprehensive health and life insurance, transit subsidy, professional development and training opportunities, and flexible hours designed to provide the ability to achieve and maintain a balanced lifestyle.

To find more information about current job openings for nurses in the Department of Defense go to USAJOBS.gov and the [ARMY](#), [AIR FORCE](#), [NAVY](#) websites.

Sources: [U.S. Office of Personnel Management](#)

Sources: HealthCareers.com

Sources: CareersInTheMilitary.com