

Expand knowledge
Contribute to
America's healthcare
Build the
nursing workforce
Give back to the profession
Conduct
research

Be a nurse educator.



The Washington Center for Nursing (WCN) is the statewide nursing workforce organization whose goal is to build an adequate nursing workforce for Washington State for the future.

The WCN Board is led by nurses from across Washington who are actively involved in nursing, and are men and women of varying backgrounds, ethnicities, care settings and education levels.

Be a nurse educator.



Make a
difference
Improve patient
outcomes
Advance
education
Demonstrate excellence



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Nurse educators play a crucial role in developing the nursing workforce so that we can continue to care for our population. Teaching future nurses is an exciting and rewarding career in which educators help students learn nursing concepts and develop skills while ultimately enriching the nursing profession.

Nurse educators:

- Are leaders in the profession
- Develop curriculum
- Facilitate professional learning
- Shape the future of nursing
- Can continue clinical practice
- Conduct research
- Make a difference in peoples' lives
- Are part of something bigger than themselves
- Share their passion about nursing
- Are lifelong learners
- Collaborate with other professionals
- Are part of the solution to the nursing shortage
- Enjoy plentiful job opportunities

Nurse educators describe their careers...

“It’s so rewarding watching my students grow and knowing that my career as a nurse is benefiting them. It’s powerful knowing I am helping the nurses of tomorrow develop into the healthcare professionals they want to be.”

“As a nurse educator, I enjoy the options I have within the field. Not only do I get to play a hands-on role in educating future nurses, but I also get to be involved with other aspects of nursing I love, like research, writing and professional organizations.”

Nurse educators have diverse opportunities within the field. They can teach at the undergraduate, master’s and doctoral levels. Educators have roles like:

Full time faculty member/instructor

Serves as an educator. Interacts with nursing students on a daily basis, designs and evaluates curriculum and guides students through their programs. Often conducts research, participates in professional organizations, writes grants and may continue clinical work.

Adjunct faculty member/instructor

Serves as an educator part time while continuing to serve in the clinical field.

Dean or Director

Leads the nursing program and collaborates with faculty.

Student mentor

While fulfilling instructor roles, nurse educators can also serve as student mentors. They shape the future of nursing by sharing experiences in nursing while also helping students identify their strengths so they can succeed in their nursing program.

Educators can fill many roles in a variety of settings including:

- Four year colleges and universities
- Community and technical colleges
- Hospitals and healthcare organizations

Nurse educators have a strong educational background. They value continuing education and are lifelong learners. Nurse educators have qualifications including:

Master’s in Nursing (MSN or MN)

To teach, a nurse educator must be equipped with the education and training needed to provide effective guidance. Nurse educators teaching in programs preparing RNs must hold at least a master’s degree. Those teaching LPNs must hold at least a BSN.

Ph.D. or DNP

Many nurse educators have earned doctoral degrees. Teachers at this level conduct research in the science of nursing and teaching. In addition to research, doctorally prepared faculty teach, advise students and may continue clinical work.

Certified Nurse Educator (CNE)

CNE certification is national recognition of the educator’s competence and achievement in teaching nursing.

Resources or for more information, please contact:

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