



Where to study

The nursing qualifications mentioned are offered at universities, public colleges and private nursing schools, depending on the type and level of qualification – just remember to visit the SANC's website first to ensure you study nursing at an accredited institution:

www.sanc.co.za

After undergoing an undergraduate programme, there is ample opportunity to undertake further studies. This includes Postgraduate Diplomas in specialized areas (such as Childcare Nursing, Critical Care Nursing, etc.), or advanced degrees at Honours, Master's and Doctorate level.



Employment

Once qualified, you may apply for employment at either public health establishments such as hospitals or clinics with the Department of Health, or join one of the private hospitals or clinics. Municipalities, medical laboratories and the military also offer nursing careers.



The working environment of a nurse

Working as a nurse means you will be working shifts and long hours and night duty, dedicated solely to the well-being of the patients in your care. You will also work closely with other health professionals such as Doctors, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Dieticians, to mention a few.

The value of a true nurse lies in the ability to show respect for human life and dignity, social justice and integrity, and total commitment to patients and other healthcare users. If you are that person, the nursing profession is awaiting you...

Visit **www.sanc.co.za** for the list of accredited Nursing Education Institutions and make the correct career choice today.

The South African Nursing Council – regulating nursing; advocating for the public.



South African Nursing Council
Regulating nursing, advocating for the public

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Nursing as a career >>>



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**NURSING
AS A CAREER**



BACKGROUND

The nursing profession is regarded as the backbone of healthcare, as nurses are at the forefront of healthcare delivery.

Nursing entails preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health throughout a lifespan - from birth to death.

A nurse deals with many conditions and cases, including trauma, maternity, paediatrics, gynaecology, surgical and medical conditions, among many others.

Nursing is a science and an art, involving both theory and practical work in the different practical settings, for example clinics, community health centres, hospitals of different types and sizes, hospices, et cetera.

Being a nurse requires certain qualities, such as:



Communication Skills;



Interpersonal Skills;



Empathy;



Patience;



Honesty; and



Sympathy and Compassion.



Regulation of Nursing profession

In South Africa, nursing is regulated by the South African Nursing Council (or SANC). The SANC regulates the Nursing profession by establishing and maintaining standards for nursing education and training as well as for practice; it also advocates on behalf of the public in matters concerning nursing. **Therefore, one cannot practice nursing in South Africa if one is not registered with the SANC.**



Nursing Education Institutions

In order to study nursing, one must apply and be admitted at a Nursing Education Institution (either public or private).

It is very important, though, to ensure that the Nursing Education Institution has been accredited by the South African Nursing Council and that the programme is accredited by both the South African Nursing Council and the Council on Higher Education.

Applications for training must be sent directly to the Nursing Education Institutions, which are published on the SANC website at www.sanc.co.za.

The relevant Nursing Education Institution will register you as a student nurse with the SANC. This is very important as education and training that is undertaken without SANC registration is not recognized. The SANC issues you with a registration certificate as proof that you are registered with the SANC as a student nurse. This certificate is also sent to the Nursing Education Institution - be sure to ask for proof of this registration.

School subjects to enhance your opportunity

The following school subjects can enhance your opportunity to be selected by the Nursing Education Institution for the nursing programmes:



English



Mathematical Literacy or Mathematics;



Life Sciences and/or Biology; and



Computer skills.

Please note that the South African Nursing Council does not prescribe school subjects and the number of points required for entry into the various nursing programmes. This function rests with the Nursing Education Institutions.

In order to be admitted to the programme, you must be in possession of at least a National Senior Certificate as issued by UMALUSI, with the relevant subject combination; or an equivalent international qualification which allows access to study towards a Higher Certificate qualification.



The second level is a **Diploma in Nursing**, which is a **three-year programme**. On completion you register with the SANC as a General Nurse.

In order to be admitted to the programme, you must be in possession of at least a National Senior Certificate as issued by UMALUSI, with the relevant subject combination; or an equivalent international qualification which allows access to study towards a Diploma qualification.



The under-graduate programmes to nursing

There are **three entry levels** under-graduate programmes to nursing:



The first one is the **Higher Certificate in Nursing**, which is a **one-year programme**. On completion you register with the SANC as a Nursing Auxiliary.



The third level is a **Bachelor of Nursing**, a **four-year programme** at a university. On completion you register with the SANC as a professional Nurse and Midwife.

In order to be admitted to the programme, a person must be in possession of at least a National Senior Certificate as issued by UMALUSI with the relevant subject combination; or an equivalent international qualification which allows access to study towards a Degree qualification.