**Is a Career in Nursing for You?**

- Check out [https://www.discovernursing.com/](https://www.discovernursing.com/)
- Talk with nurses you know about their career...perhaps spend a few hours with them to see what they do
  - Volunteer at a Nursing Home or in a hospital
- Get certified as a nursing assistant (CNA Programs)
  - Red Cross link - [http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/cna](http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/cna) (CNA Classes)
- Get certified in First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
  - [https://www.redcross.org/local/ma/take-a-class/cpr](https://www.redcross.org/local/ma/take-a-class/cpr)
- Talk to high school guidance counselor about your goals...the earlier, the better
- Take and do well in 4 high school math courses (i.e., algebra, geometry, statistics) and 4 science courses (i.e., biology, microbiology, chemistry, physics, anatomy if they are available at your school)
- Try to find a job in the summer months where you will be interacting and working with people

**Nursing Options**

- **Licensed Practical Nurse:** LPNs care for the sick, injured, convalescent, and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. They provide basic care. Most LPN programs are about a yearlong and are offered by technical and vocational schools.

- **Associate Degree:** (AD) A two-to-three year program offered at junior and community colleges to prepare nurses to provide direct patient care. Some hospitals do not hire nurses with this level of preparation.

- **Bachelor of Science Nursing:** (BS/BSN) A four-year program offered at colleges and universities to prepare nurses to practice across all health care settings. RNs with a BS/BSN have the greatest opportunity for advancement.

- **Master Degree:** (MS/MSN) – Typically two years in duration. Designed for RNs with a BS/BSN who want to specialize in a specific area of nursing (i.e.; pediatrics, geriatrics, women’s health, education).

- **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP):** This program prepares RNs to become nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetist, clinical nurse specialists, or nurse administrators.

- **Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD):** This program prepares RNs to conduct research and expand our knowledge of nursing science.

- **Accelerated Nursing Programs:** Programs for individuals with a bachelor’s degree in a field other than nursing, leading to Registered Nurse (RN) licensure, and then to either a BS, MS, DNP, or PhD all depending on the program you choose.

**Getting Ready to Apply to College!**

- Look for schools that have accredited nursing programs. Visit the school and go on a tour, if possible.
- Get everything ready early!
  - Take the SAT and/or ACT tests if required by the schools you are interested in attending
  - Complete your resume by Fall; work with your guidance counselor & language arts teachers
  - Ask for recommendation letters from teachers at the end of junior year or early senior year
  - Write your essay the summer before applying; being sure to include your interest in working with people as a nurse
- Watch the college application deadlines and apply Early Action (not binding), if possible. Most nursing schools accept the bulk of their class from early applications.