Various academic pathways lead to a nursing career. Four Nursing pathways are possible at North: Associate’s Degree in Nursing, Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing, Accelerated BSN, and Nurse Practitioner (Master in Nursing/Doctor Nurse Practitioner).

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR HEALTH & MEDICAL ADVISOR FOR HELP NAVIGATING YOUR NURSING OPTIONS THROUGH STARFISH OR COMING TO THE ADVISING OFFICE IN COLLEGE CENTER BUILDING (CC2346).
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

Obtaining a CNA license is a quick way to find an entry-level position into the nursing profession, and can prepare one for entry into an Associate Degree in Nursing program and beyond. Options include Seattle Central’s Nursing Assistant - Certified (NAC) or third party providers. This can take between four to twelve weeks to receive the necessary hours of training and clinical hours before qualifying to take the licensing exam. Refer to the Washington State’s Board of Nursing website for more information regarding Nursing Assistant Training Programs in Washington.

Associate Degree in Nursing (AN-DTA/MRP)

Associate Degree in Nursing programs are typically offered through community colleges such as Seattle Colleges Associate Degree Nursing Program (ADN). Nursing classes are offered at three campuses in the Seattle Colleges District: North Seattle, Seattle Central, and South Seattle. Admissions application is submitted to Seattle Central, who manages the ADN program, and students designate a preference of campus where they will be taking their nursing classes. It is recommended to attend an Information Session for details on the admissions process.

After completing a ADN and getting a RN license you can apply for a RN to BSN program to receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Bellevue College and UW-Bothell offer RN to BSN programs as well as various online options like Western Governors University (WGU). Receiving a BSN can help with career advancement, higher salaries, and higher rates of employment.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

The majority of Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs are offered at a four-year college/university and prepares students to get their RN license; same as receiving your ADN. The main differences between receiving a ADN vs BSN is, for a BSN there are General Education requirements and additional nursing prerequisites. Another difference is most ADN programs either require/recommend receiving a CNA license, while typically BSN programs do not.

After receiving a BSN and obtaining a RN license, one can start working as a Registered Nurse right away. Those who want to pursue graduate school for nursing to become a Nurse Practitioner (NP) can apply for a Master of Science or Doctor Nurse Practitioner program.

Nurse Practitioner (MSN/DNP)

Registered Nurse who wants to further their knowledge and provide leadership in the nursing profession can pursue a terminal graduate degree to become a Nurse Practitioner. Pathways to pursuing a Master of Science or Doctor Nurse Practitioner program includes receiving a BSN and then applying for a Nurse Practitioner program or post-baccalaureate students can apply for an combined Accelerated-BSN to Nurse Practitioner program.

3/6/2023 JTE