

Training

To become a registered nurse you must complete a Bachelor of Nursing. It takes three years.

18 institutions offer Bachelor of Nursing. Those closest to Waikato include: Wintec (Hamilton), Waiariki Institute of Technology (Rotorua), Auckland University, AUT (Northshore Auckland), Unitec (Mt Albert, Auckland), Manukau Institute of Technology and Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology (Rotorua).

An example of entry requirements (Wintec) is shown, but check details on institution websites.

60 credits at NCEA Level 3 and 20 credits at NCEA Level 2 including:

- 14 credits NCEA Level 3 Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Science,
- 14 credits NCEA Level 3 English language rich subject (e.g. English, History, Art History, Classics, Geography or Economics, Media Studies),
- 14 credits in one further NCEA Level 3 approved subject; and
- 10 credits at NCEA Level 2 Literacy (5 credits reading, 5 credits writing); and
- 10 credits at NCEA Level 1 Numeracy in specified achievement standards or a specified package of three unit standards

Personal Qualities

Registered nurses need to be:

- good communicators
- decisive
- systematic
- able to work well under pressure
- calm in emergencies
- discrete with private information
- compassionate
- tolerant of other cultures and backgrounds
- calm and helpful



Information collated by NZIRH
Where to go for more information:

- www.careers.govt.nz
- www.kiaorahauora.co.nz
- www.nursingcouncil.org.nz

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Registered Nurse



Nursing

Nursing involves ...

Care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings.

Nurses are involved in

- Promotion of health
- Prevention of illness
- Care of ill, disabled and dying people
- Advocacy (support)
- Promotion of a safe environment
- Research
- Shaping health policy
- Health education

Many nurses are over the age of 50 years so there will be a demand for nurses in the future. Not only will older nurses be retiring, but there is expected to be a larger group of retired people with age associated health problems. For now, some new graduates may find it takes 3 months to 1 year to get work as a registered nurse in New Zealand. For those that are prepared to work in South Canterbury and West Coast, the chances of getting a job are good.

What do they do?

Registered nurses may:

- plan and carry out nursing care to improve patients' health
- give patients' medication
- monitor, record and evaluate patients' condition
- help with special procedures and surgery
- order medical supplies
- check and care for medical equipment
- educate patients, their families or community groups about health needs, and prevention of accidents and illness
- work with a team of health professionals, community organisations, employers and government agencies to support the patient, their caregivers and family

Nurse practitioners, who are registered nurses that have gone on to do further study, may prescribe medications or treatments like physical therapy, and may carry out minor surgery and other procedures.

Where do nurses work?

Most registered nurses work in public hospitals. Some work for:

- Private hospitals
- Primary health organisations, like doctors' practices and family planning clinics
- Rest and nursing homes
- Community care clinics
- Non-government organisations such as Plunket
- Private health trusts and providers
- Māori health providers
- Prisons

A registered nurse may work as a:

- Medical nurse
- Practice nurse
- Public health nurse
- District nurse
- Wellchild nurse
- Community mental health nurse
- Occupational health nurse
- Nurse researcher
- Nurse administrator
- Nurse consultant
- Nurse educator