WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... NURSING

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
Nursing combines science and technology with the desire to help people. Nurses assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. Nurses may advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. Licensing or registration required. Includes advance practice nurses such as: nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists. Advanced practice nursing is practiced by RNs who have specialized formal, post-basic education and who function in highly autonomous and specialized roles.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:
In all states, the District of Columbia, and U.S territories, students must graduate from an approved nursing program and pass a national licensing examination, known as the NCLEX-RN or NCLEX-PN, in order to obtain a nursing license. Nurses may be licensed in more than one State, either by examination or by the endorsement of a licensed issued by another State. Nursing programs range from associate degrees to graduate level programs; higher degrees typically involve a broader and more complex scope of patient care. UNM offers a variety of degree options at the bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels.

EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:

Staff Nursing: Pediatrics, Surgical, Emergency, Critical Care, Maternity, Women’s Health, Newborn- Intensive Care, Hospitals –Clinics, Physicians’ offices, Outpatient surgery centers, Nursing homes, Rehabilitation centers, Hospices Psychiatric hospitals, Educational institutions

Suggested Strategy: Gain experience through externship or internship programs. Work or volunteer in healthcare and medical settings. Take electives in areas such as wellness, holistic health, medical ethics and death and dying. Develop good organizational skills and the ability to handle stress. Be prepared to work nights, weekends, and holidays. Cultivate managerial skills for head nurse or other supervisory positions.

Community and Public Health: Home health, Rural nursing, Health education, Public and private schools, Daycare centers, Mental health facilities, State and local health departments, Home healthcare agencies, Senior centers, Religious organizations, Social service agencies

Suggested Strategy: Develop knowledge and skills in management, decision-making, mediation, teaching, and counseling. Develop expertise in first aid procedures. Expand knowledge of health issues related to age, cultures, religions, ethics, and government policies. Obtain a master’s degree for nurse practitioner positions.

Independent Practice: Temporary staffing, Travel nursing, Personal services contracting, Private duty, Midwifery, Healthcare staffing agencies, Travel companies, Private households

Suggested Strategy: Learn to work and make decisions autonomously. Be prepared to move frequently locally or abroad. Become flexible and adaptable.

Government Service: Staff nursing, Administration, Policy Department, Research, Government health agencies, Armed services, Prisons

Suggested Strategy: Define an area of interest. Plan on graduate studies in teaching, research or administration for advancement. Become familiar with other cultures, languages, health systems, and beliefs. Be prepared for combat nursing in armed services.
International Health: Embassies, Military bases, National or international government agencies, Church-related mission services, World Health Organizations

Suggested Strategy: Consider advanced education as a clinical nurse or nurse practitioner to be more marketable. Learn a foreign language. Research nursing requirements in other countries.

Additional Areas: Education, Nursing Research, Tele-health, Insurance, Healthcare Administration, Patient Advocacy, Forensic Nursing, Law

Suggested Strategy: Combine interest nursing and healthcare with another field by earning appropriate graduate degrees or gaining relevant experience.

State and National Wages (2006):

Registered Nurses (RNs)

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<th>10%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>75%</th>
<th>90%</th>
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<td>U.S.</td>
<td>40,200</td>
<td>47,700</td>
<td>57,300</td>
<td>69,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>40,600</td>
<td>47,500</td>
<td>57,100</td>
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Licensed Practical Nurse (LPNs)

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<th>75%</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
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<td>31,100</td>
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PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & RESOURCES:

National League for Nursing
American Nurses Association
UNM Student Nurses Association (SNA)
UNM College of Nursing
All Nursing Schools (directory of U.S. nursing schools)
New Mexico Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses
New Mexico Board of Nursing
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Society of Registered Nurses
National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

- http://online.onetcenter.org
- http://www.bls.gov/oco/