

Hey there,

FUTURE NURSE!

We want to help you achieve your goal of becoming a nurse.

Trust the PROCESS

To become a Registered Nurse, you'll have to complete an approved nursing education program, pass the National Council Licensure Examination ("NCLEX" for short), and meet state-specific training and paperwork requirements.

TAKE CLASSES LIKE:

- Intro classes on health-related topics from psychology to nutrition
- Foundational nursing classes like Family and Community Health and Pharmacology
- Hands-on clinical nursing classes in high-tech simulation labs
- Advanced clinical nursing classes in real-life healthcare settings
- Fun electives like Ill-Behaved Women: Nursing in Literature

SO MANY ROADS TO one destination

Colleges and universities have different pathways for nursing majors. Here are some popular ones:

- ➔ **Associate Degree in Nursing:** Offered primarily at community colleges and schools that specialize in nursing, this two-year program qualifies you to sit for the NCLEX so you can become a Registered Nurse. In New York state, RNs are required to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing within 10 years, so even if you go to work right away, you'll eventually be back in school.
- ➔ **1+2+1 B.S. in Nursing:** This program leads to a bachelor's degree in nursing and usually involves completing general education courses at the bachelor's-granting institution and nursing coursework at a partner institution. The 1+2+1 breaks down your four years of study: In year 1, you begin general education requirements for your bachelor's degree. You go into clinical nursing courses years 2 and 3, then you finish your bachelor's degree courses in year 4. You sit for your NCLEX after completing clinicals in year 3 to become an RN.
- ➔ **B.S. in Nursing, Direct Entry:** In a traditional B.S. in Nursing program, you work on your general education requirements for your bachelor's degree in years 1 and 2 and do your nursing clinicals in years 3 and 4. You'll take the NCLEX for RN licensure after graduation.
- ➔ **RN to B.S. in Nursing:** If you decide to start with an associate degree, an RN to B.S. in nursing program is a transfer-friendly way to strengthen your professional skills and fulfill New York's requirement that all RNs earn a bachelor's within 10 years.
- ➔ **Accelerated B.S. in Nursing:** These programs are for students who have a bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing, but want to become nurses. They can be completed in as few as 16 months. Remember this program as an option if you decide to get a bachelor's degree in something else but find yourself still wanting to be a nurse.



HOT TIP

In addition to being a good option for a four-year college experience, Russell Sage's program is Direct Entry, which means your spot as a nursing major is guaranteed as long as you maintain your 3.0 GPA. Some colleges admit students as "pre-nursing," meaning your spot in nursing is not guaranteed.

The hottest of HOT TIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL IF YOU WANT TO GET INTO NURSING PROGRAMS:

Admission to nursing programs is competitive, and the major is academically rigorous. To be a strong applicant and feel prepared for college:

- ➔ Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA for admission.
- ➔ Take four years of math and science in high school: Four years of both is recommended for admission, and it's important preparation for college coursework.
- ➔ Consider taking core science classes — like biology, chemistry, and anatomy — at the college where you're earning your bachelor's degree, even if you've taken AP or dual-enrollment versions in high school. By taking these courses at the institution where you'll earn your degree, you can be sure you have the proper foundation for the nursing program.
- ➔ Some nursing programs require entrance exams. Russell Sage does not, but if you're applying elsewhere, plan ahead so you meet application deadlines.

So many kinds of nurses ...

You don't have to know your specialty now! During your clinical rotations in college, you'll explore different areas of nursing. Popular areas include:

- Medical-Surgical
- Gerontology
- Oncology
- Emergency Room
- Pediatrics
- Cardiology
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Psychiatric

THEN THERE ARE NURSES WHO LEVEL UP:

Nurse Practitioner: Can act as a primary care provider — diagnosing patients, creating treatment plans, and prescribing medication. NPs earn a master's degree and pass a national exam. Post-master's certificates allow further specialization, e.g., a Family Nurse Practitioner can add a psychiatric mental health certification.

CAREER opportunities

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the **2024 median pay for RNs with a bachelor's degree was \$93,600**, considerably higher than the median pay for nurses without a bachelor's degree (\$62,340).

Planning to become a New York State-licensed nurse? Choosing a degree program in New York can help you meet state requirements.

SO WHY PICK RUSSELL SAGE FOR THIS?



The Capital Region is home to Albany Med Health System (the largest regionally governed not-for-profit health system in northeastern New York and western New England), dozens of agencies serving more than 19 million New Yorkers and is a great location for internships, post-grad job opportunities, and ways to get involved in public and community service.

Nurses are in high demand in New York's Capital Region and employers are eager to attract them: Russell Sage's Nursing Career Start-up Grant offers graduates the opportunity to receive up to \$9,000 if they work in an acute care hospital in New York's Capital Region.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse: Includes NPs, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, and Certified Nurse Midwives. Each APRN role requires specialized graduate education, clinical experience, and certification, but all start as Registered Nurses.

Education, administration, research, and policy: With advanced education — especially a doctorate — nurses can become leaders, educators, researchers, and policy advocates shaping the future of healthcare.



CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ADMISSION

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➔ sage.edu/apply

