REGISTERED NURSES

What is a Registered Nurse?

When providing direct patient care, registered nurses observe, assess, and record symptoms, reactions, and progress in patients; assist physicians during surgeries, treatments, and examinations; administer medications; and assist in convalescence and rehabilitation. RNs also develop and manage nursing care plans, instruct patients and their families in proper care, and help individuals and groups take steps to improve or maintain their health.

Job duties of a registered nurse generally include;
- Assess patients to identify appropriate nursing interventions
- Collaborate with members of an interdisciplinary health team to plan, implement, co-ordinate and evaluate patient care in consultation with patients and their families
- Administer medications and treatments as prescribed by a physician or according to establish policies and protocols
- Monitor, assess, address, document, and report symptoms and changes inpatient's conditions
- Operate or monitor medical apparatus or equipment
- Assist in surgery and other medical procedures
- May supervise licensed practical nurses and other nursing staff
- May develop and implement discharge planning process on admission of patients
- May teach and counsel patients and their families on health related issues in collaboration with other health care providers

How do you become a Registered Nurse?

Employment as a Registered Nurse requires the completion of a university, college or other approved registered nursing program. Additional academic training or experience is required to specialize in a specific area of nursing.

Where can you be trained to be a Registered Nurse?

Education and training for nurses in Saskatchewan is consolidated under the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS); a collaborative venture of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST), University of Saskatchewan and First Nations University of Canada (FNUC). Students in the program earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. Graduates register with the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA), the provincial licensing body for registered nurses.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Nursing
Health Sciences Bldg.
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon SK S7N 5E5
Tel: (306) 966-6221
Fax: 306-966-6621
www.usask.ca/nursing/

SIAST Wascana Campus
Parkway Centre
Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan
(NEPS)

PO Box 556
Regina SK S4P 3A3
Tel.: 306-787-4258
Fax: 306-787-9561
www.siast.sk.ca/~wascana/neps.htm

SIAST Kelsey Campus
NEPS Program
PO Box 1520
Saskatoon SK S7K 3R5
Tel.: 306-933-6440
Fax: 306-933-6490
www.siast.sk.ca/~kelsey/neps.htm

What do you need to get into Registered Nurse training program?

The admission requirements for the NEPS are:

- Grade 12 with English Language Arts A30, English Language Arts B30, highest level Grade 12 Math, Biology 30 and Chemistry 30 (Physics 30 will not substitute for Biology 30 or Chemistry 30)

- Minimum overall average of 65% for the five courses above

- The acceptance average is typically higher than 65%.

- CPR Level 'C' (BLS-C) and Standard First Aid are required either prior to commencement of the program or no later than January 31 of Year 1.

As part of the registration process, a criminal records check is required upon admission into the program.
Please note: Other educational institutes may have different requirements-please check their respective websites.

What does a Registered Nurse study?

A university degree program in nursing typically includes classes in:

- Anatomy
- Ethics
- Nutrition
- Nursing management/leadership
- Aging/health

- Health assessment
- Community health
- Pharmacology

Clinical practicums are an essential component of the program.

Where does a Registered Nurse work?

- Regional Health Authorities (including public health nursing, community health centres, acute care hospitals, home care, rehabilitation hospitals, long-term care facilities, primary care homes, foot care clinics)

- Doctors' Offices
- Industrial Settings
- Private Homes/Agencies
- Schools

What is the salary of a Registered Nurse?

Pay scales for registered nurses are part of the SAHO/SUN Collective Agreement: http://www.sun-nurses.sk.ca/

Related Links

Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada
http://www.anac.on.ca/

Office of Nursing Policy
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/onp-bpsi/english/links/nursing_orgs_e.html

Please check the Saskatchewan Health Bursary webpage for information about bursaries for health science students: http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/hhrp_bursaries.html