

THE ROAD TO BECOMING A NURSE

In California, there are three types of pre-licensure nursing programs, and two alternative routes to become a registered nurse:

- Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)

2-3 years. Offered at many community colleges. Prepare you to provide registered nursing care in numerous settings.

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

4 years. Also referred to as Baccalaureate degree. Offered at many California State Universities and some private colleges. Prepares to provide registered nursing care in numerous settings and to move to administrative and leadership positions.

- Entry Level Masters Program in Nursing (ELM)

Designed for adults who have a baccalaureate degree in another field and wish to become registered nurses. It takes 1-2 years depending on how many nursing course prerequisites you have already completed. Graduates receive a masters degree.

- LVN 30 Unit Option

Designed as a career ladder for California Licensed Vocational Nurses wishing to become registered nurses. It takes approximately 18-24 months. No degree is granted upon completion. Most other states do not recognize California's LVN 30 Unit Option and will not issue RN licenses to these LVNs. Some LVNs prefer to complete an ADN program to obtain a degree and to have the flexibility to get an RN license in other states. Most ADN programs will give LVNs credit for some of the coursework they completed to become an LVN.

- Military Corpsmen

California law permits military corpsman to take the national exam for RN licensure if they have completed RN level education and clinical experience.

Find out about all the California colleges that provide nursing programs at:

<https://www.rn.ca.gov/education/rnprograms.shtml>

- **BEST LVN PROGRAMS in California**

California offers many LVN programs in various cities across the state. To explore the top programs in the State, click: <https://www.practicalnursing.org/lvn-programs/california>