There are forensic certification programs for nurses who have already earned their Registered Nurse (RN) license. Colleges and universities that have nursing programs may also offer specialty credentials in forensic nursing subfields.

Nurses should expect to complete continuing education credits based on their state’s requirements to periodically renew their nursing license.

Forensic nursing is expanding (child abuse nurse examiner, psychiatric forensic nurse, corrections nurse, and forensic clinical nurse specialist). These specialized nurses work in a range of settings, including hospitals, schools, prisons and jails, clinics, and tissue and organ donation departments.

On a daily basis, a forensic nurse may engage in:

- Work with sexual assault and intimate partner violence victims
- Collect and preserve data and evidence
- Medicolegal death investigation
- Psychiatric Mental Health
- Work in clinics, tissue and organ donation departments and correctional settings
- Work with non-profit organizations that serve victims of crime by providing free or low-cost medical care
- Work in hospitals / emergency department and are often on call for local law enforcement. During a shift in an Emergency Department may collect bullets and other evidence from a victim to help with an investigation. Forensic nurses store the clothing that a victim was wearing at the time of a crime so that it can be evaluated. They also photograph and document the victims’ injuries. Forensic nurses often work with medical examiners when a victim dies. There is training for the handling and collecting of evidence, including hairs, fibers, and swabs of fluids for DNA testing.