An associate degree, diploma, or bachelor’s degree and state licensure is required for entry into practice. There are innovative and accelerated programs available for graduates with bachelor’s degrees in alternate professions and bridge programs for nurses with a certificate as a licensed vocational/practical nurse.

This career is adaptable to many roles in client care since the educational programs are focused on direct patient care and promotion of wellness across the lifespan. This role can fit within many employment opportunities and the skills of the RN are needed in hospitals, extended care, homes, communities, and clinics.

The Bedside/point of care RN may complete each of these in a typical day:

- Assess and observe signs and symptoms a patient is experiencing
- Identify nursing needs of the patient
- Assist the patient with moving and maintaining proper body alignment
- Take and record vital signs
- Observe and respond to the patient’s emotional and spiritual needs
- Prepare the patient for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
- Initiate corrective action when needed, and record information into the patient’s chart
- Act as a patient advocate.
- Protect promote, and optimize health
- Teach the patient about disease prevention, successful therapy, and rehabilitation
- Evaluate care given to further plan care needed