Instead of dedicating their career exclusively to patient care, a nurse educator is passionate about teaching and advocating for nurses. They instruct aspiring nurses and offer guidance, which may include training in both practical and educational settings.

Nurse educators inspire, teach, and mentor the next generation of nurses, leading the way to the future of patient care. Without them, graduating nurses would be ill-equipped to face the ever-changing demands of today’s dynamic healthcare system.

Nurse educators hold an advanced degree, either a master’s or doctoral. They are often employed by universities, but are also found in hospital or clinical settings where they keep nurses up-to-date on the latest needs in health and patient care.

The World Health Organization (WHO) outlines eight core competencies for nurse educators which are, in summary:

- Theories and principles of adult learning
- Curriculum design and implementation
- Nursing practice
- Research and evidence
- Communication, collaboration, and partnership
- Ethical/legal principles and professionalism
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Management, leadership and advocacy

Not only teachers, nurse educators serve as administrators, advisors, clinical coaches, lab instructors, mentors to new faculty members, course developers, researchers, and more.

It’s also crucial that a faculty works together as a team, sharing the load and providing students with a truly exceptional nurse education.

Nurse educators provide ongoing mentorship and serve as examples to students through various stages of hands-on learning. It’s an especially important role in clinical development, where students look to their teachers for feedback on patient interaction, decision-making, and health assessment.