

Nursing

Nurses who work in forensic settings use specialized

knowledge and skills to provide patient care and treatment.

Nurses working in forensic

behavioral health also have

knowledge of the criminal court

system and issues that exist

where behavioral health and the

law intersect.

About DSHS

The Department of Social and Health Services' Behavioral Health Administration (transforms lives by supporting sustainable recovery, independence and wellness. Within BHA, the Office of Forensic Mental Health Services), provides information about careers in forensic behavioral health which play an important role in improving the lives of individuals with behavioral health conditions involved in the criminal court system. For more information about positions open within DSHS, please visit www.careers.wa.gov.

Forensic Behavioral Health

Forensic behavioral health is the intersection of behavioral health and the law. The system itself involves various entities that have a touchpoint to people who are involved with the criminal court system and may have a behavioral health condition.

Choosing a career as a practitioner in this human services field offers many diverse work environments. Examples include, working with law enforcement in co-responder roles or in a corrections setting; in inpatient settings such as state psychiatric facilities and residential treatment facilities; and in community settings such as outpatient competency restoration programs, or community behavioral health agencies. Service providers in this field often interact with legal partners such as lawyers and judges, corrections officers, and first responders.

For more information

Behavioral Health Administration, OFMHS

[www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/
office-forensic-mental-health-services](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/office-forensic-mental-health-services)

Workforce Development

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Nursing



Forensic Behavioral Health Career Path

Office of Forensic Mental Health Services

Pathway to Forensic Behavioral Health Nursing



Examples of Work Environments

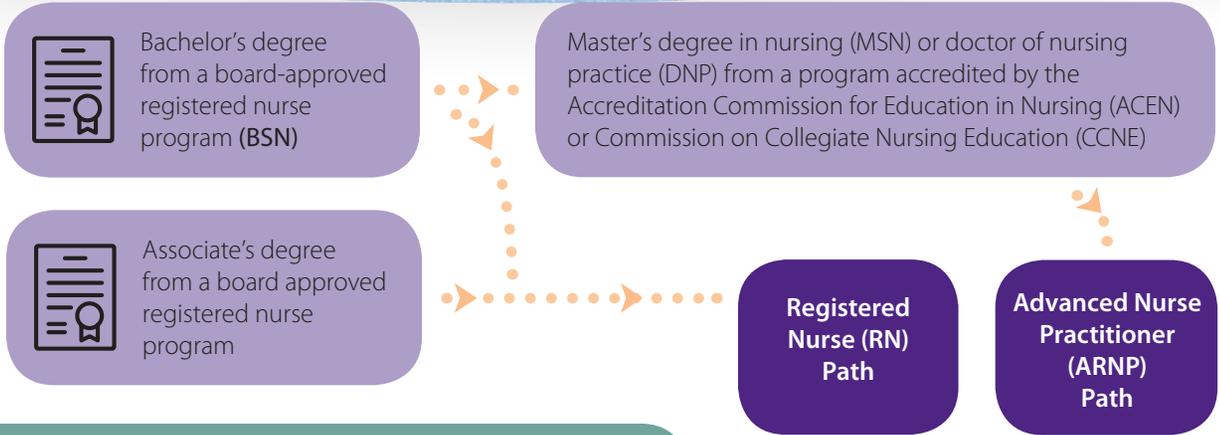
Typical work environments for forensic nurses include community settings such as outpatient competency restoration facilities, or with behavioral health organizations. Nurses also often work in inpatient settings such as state or private behavioral health hospitals, correctional settings, and residential treatment facilities.

Education

Becoming a Registered Nurse (RN) in Washington requires graduation from an approved nursing program and licensure. Becoming an Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) requires a master's degree or above from an approved program, post-graduate experience, and licensure. See Washington Administrative Code 246-840 for more information.

*This document is for illustrative purposes only.
For detailed information see: Chapter 246-840 WAC*

Begin





Schools in Washington

RN Programs (Associates) • Community College (CC)
Over 22 Community and Technological Colleges in Washington State have RN Programs

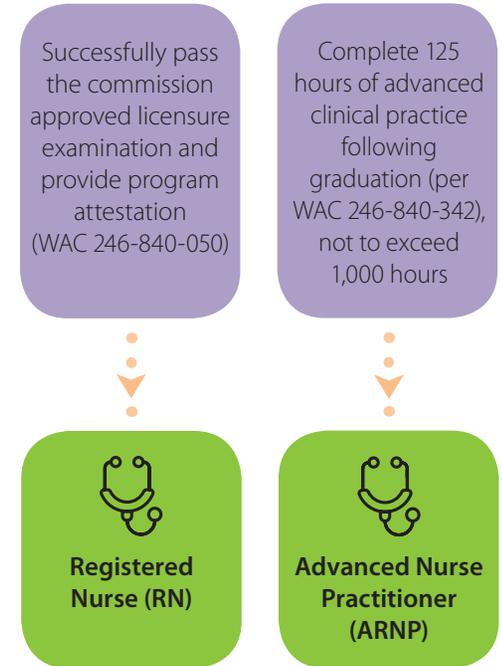
RN Programs (Bachelors-BSN)
At Least 11 Colleges and Universities in Washington State have BSN Programs

Masters Programs
There are 6 Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs in Washington State

For a full list of approved RN, BSN, and MSN programs in Washington please go to:

<https://nursing.wa.gov/>

Resource-DOH WA State Board of Nursing



New Opportunities