

# Career Profile: Community Health Nurse

Community health nursing provides primary healthcare to communities and focuses on prevention of disease and promotion of health. Community health nurses provide clinical nursing services and help to rehabilitate people in the community.

In offering primary health care to individuals the community health nurse is confronted with all aspects of human life namely physical, mental, emotional, psychological, social and spiritual. Some community health nurses organise their work on an appointment basis to eliminate long waiting in queues for patients, but mainly to allow opportunities and time with individual patients.

## Education Requirements

### National Senior Certificate (NSC)

For a career in community nursing students are advised to select English, Science and Mathematics and to add to this a selection from the designated subjects. These are subjects that are particularly suitable for tertiary study.

### Bachelor Degree

#### **Bachelor of Nursing Science – BCur (3/4 years)**

A four year degree programme that covers general nursing, community, psychiatric and obstetric nursing. You may also consider a post graduate diploma offered at these universities:

- [North-West University](#)<sup>1</sup> (School of Nursing Science - Potchefstroom Campus)
- [University of Johannesburg](#)<sup>2</sup> (Department of Nursing Sciences)
- [University of Limpopo](#)<sup>3</sup> (Department Of Nursing Sciences - Turfloop Campus)
- [University of Pretoria](#)<sup>4</sup> (Department of Nursing Science)
- [University of the Witwatersrand](#)<sup>5</sup> (Department of Nursing Education)
- [University of Venda](#)<sup>6</sup> (Department of Nursing Science)
- [UNISA](#)<sup>7</sup> (Diploma in Health Studies)

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.puk.ac.za/fakulteite/gesond/verpleegkunde/index\\_e.html](http://www.puk.ac.za/fakulteite/gesond/verpleegkunde/index_e.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.uj.ac.za/nursing/StudyInformation/Undergraduate/Bachelor/BCurGeneralInformation/tabid/7441/Default.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ul.ac.za/index.php?Entity=Nursing%20Sciences>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.up.ac.za/academic/healthsciences\\_old/HCS/Nursing\\_Science/index.htm](http://www.up.ac.za/academic/healthsciences_old/HCS/Nursing_Science/index.htm)

<sup>5</sup> <http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/Health/TherapeuticSciences/Nursing/UndergraduateProgramme.htm>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.univen.ac.za/health\\_sciences/nursing\\_science.html](http://www.univen.ac.za/health_sciences/nursing_science.html)

<sup>7</sup> [http://brochure.unisa.ac.za/brochure/showprev.aspx?d=\\_sr&f=p\\_03387](http://brochure.unisa.ac.za/brochure/showprev.aspx?d=_sr&f=p_03387)

### **Specializations offered:**

#### **North-West University**

BCur (Nursing Science), BCurationis means Bachelor of caring), Diploma in Community Nursing (1 year)

#### **University of Johannesburg**

BCur (Nursing Science), Community Nursing Sciences

#### **University of Limpopo**

B Cur (Nursing Science and Art)

#### **University of Pretoria**

BCur (Nursing Science)

#### **University of the Witwatersrand**

BNurs (Nursing), Diploma in Advanced Nursing (Community Health)

#### **University of Venda**

BCur (Nursing Science), Advanced Diploma in Community Health (PDC)

#### **UNISA**

Advanced University Diploma in Health Studies (Community Health)

## **National Diploma / BTech**

The National Diploma is a three year course which includes guided practical experience. The diploma is a pre-requisite for admission to a Bachelor of Technology - BTech Bachelor of Technology.

### **Offered at:**

- [Tshwane University of Technology](#)<sup>8</sup> (The Adelaide Tambo School of Nursing Science)
- [University of Johannesburg](#)<sup>9</sup> (Department of Nursing Sciences)
- [Vaal University of Technology](#)<sup>10</sup> (Community Nursing)

#### **Tshwane University of Technology**

**BTech:** Nursing Science (4 years: admission Grade 12)

#### **University of Johannesburg**

**National Diploma:** Diploma Community Nursing Science (registration with SANC as a nurse)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.tut.ac.za/Students/facultiesdepartments/science/departments/nursing/Pages/default.aspx>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.uj.ac.za/nursing/StudyInformation/Undergraduate/Diploma/tabid/2628/Default.aspx>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.vut.ac.za/new/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=626&Itemid=841](http://www.vut.ac.za/new/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=626&Itemid=841)

**National Higher Diploma:** Primary Health Care, Clinical Nursing, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care

### Vaal University of Technology

**National Diploma:** Community nursing (2 years: prerequisites – Grade 12, NHD: Certificate in general and community nursing, SANC registration)

**BTech:** Community nursing (2 years: admission – Grade 12, NHD: Certificate in general and community nursing, SANC registration)

## Admission requirements

As admission requirements vary from one institution to another, find out what the specific requirements are by checking on the website and contacting the university if you have any queries.

## Possible Employers

- National and provincial government - public hospitals and clinics
- Private hospitals and clinics Large corporations
- Homecare organizations Self employed in private practice

## Find out more

Find out more about community nursing opportunities and jobs:

- [A report about the deployment of newly qualified nurses to do community service](http://www.mg.co.za/article/2008-01-20-health-dept-deploys-new-nurses-across-sa)<sup>11</sup>
- [UNISA Advanced University Diploma in Nursing Science \(Community Health\)](http://brochure.unisa.ac.za/myunisa/data/pdf/03387NEW.pdf)<sup>12</sup> with specialization in Occupational Health or Gerontology or Clinical Nursing Science, Health Assessment, Treatment and Care)
- [The South African Nursing Council website](http://www.sanc.co.za/)<sup>13</sup> contains an index of the regulations pertaining to nursing and the scope of practice for nurses.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2008-01-20-health-dept-deploys-new-nurses-across-sa>

<sup>12</sup> <http://brochure.unisa.ac.za/myunisa/data/pdf/03387NEW.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.sanc.co.za/>

## Are you suited to this career?

This quick quiz can help you to identify whether you are suited for this occupation.

Quiz	Yes	No
Are you a caring person who would like to help people in your community?		
Are you interested in working as a member of a medical team?		
Are you well organized?		
Are you self confident?		
Are you a good listener?		
Are you a keen observer of people and their behaviour?		
Do you deal tactfully with other people?		
Are you good at oral and written communication?		
Would you like to work with people of all ages?		
Are you an encouraging person who is able to motivate people?		

If you have mainly yes answers it may be an indication that this is an occupation to consider.