

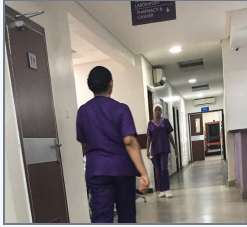
Nursing Route Comparison and Decision

NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

Your path: See one completed route. Try one with support. Compare two more routes. Then recommend one route for a fictional student.



Look first: One field, different routes

These professionals share a workplace, but their preparation and responsibilities may differ. With a partner, name one responsibility the people in this image might share and one detail you would need to verify.

Say it: "They may all _____. I would need to verify _____."

Photo: Beendy234, "Nurses at Hospital," 2024, CC0, Wikimedia Commons.

Words for this page: **preparation** — education or training before work · **responsibility** — work a person is expected to do · **verify** — check with an official source
Cognate help: preparation/preparación · responsibility/responsabilidad

1. See one: Nursing assistant

This model shows how to keep four kinds of evidence attached to one career.

EVIDENCE JOB	COMPLETED MODEL
Preparation	State-approved education program; state competency or certification requirements vary
Route detail	A student must verify the exact state and program requirements
Pay label	\$39,530 · May 2024 · U.S. median
Responsibility	Measure vital signs and report patient concerns to a nurse

Why the model works: The pay figure keeps its year, geography, and measure. The responsibility names work the person does. The route detail tells the student what still needs verification.

2. Try one together: Licensed vocational nurse

Use the evidence bank. Mark **P** beside preparation, **\$** beside pay, and **R** beside responsibility.

- ☐ State-approved vocational nursing program, typically about one year, then licensure
- ☐ \$62,340 · May 2024 · U.S. median
- ☐ Provide basic medical care and document patient status

Complete the route statement with the marked evidence:

An LVN commonly completes _____

before _____.

One responsibility is _____.

The pay evidence is _____.

Stop and Jot: What changes from the nursing assistant route to the LVN route?

Use the frame if it helps: **The LVN route requires** _____, **while the nursing assistant route** _____.

3A. Compare: Read and mark RN and nurse practitioner



The arrows show one possible way routes can build. They do not replace checking each approved program and license requirement.

Read both route cards. Underline preparation, circle the pay label, and box one responsibility on each card.

Registered nurse (RN)

Approved nursing program through an associate, bachelor's, or diploma route, then RN licensure. May 2024 U.S. median: **\$93,600**. RNs assess patients, coordinate care, and monitor equipment.

Nurse practitioner

RN preparation plus graduate education and advanced-practice licensure. May 2024 U.S. median: **\$129,210**. Nurse practitioners assess, diagnose, and manage patient care within state scope.

Comparison words: both · while · however · requires · higher/lower · a key difference · in contrast

Say it before you write: Tell a partner one comparison. Use: **Both routes** _____ . **However, the** _____ **route requires** _____ .

3B. Compare: Write with evidence

Put all four careers in order from lowest to highest May 2024 U.S. median. Include each figure.

Name one preparation difference between the RN and nurse practitioner routes.

Use the frame if it helps: **An RN commonly** _____ , **while a nurse practitioner must also** _____ .

Name one responsibility difference. Do not say only that one role has “more responsibility.”

Use the frame if it helps: **The RN is responsible for** _____ . **In contrast, the nurse practitioner** _____ .

4. RN route check: Verify before choosing

Both associate and bachelor's programs can be pre-licensure RN routes. In Texas, the student must verify that the program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing. Program length, cost, admission, transfer options, and employer preferences can differ.

Circle two facts that matter most for **Avery**, who wants to become an RN and limit time away from paid work:

program approval • program length • cost and aid • admission • transfer options • employer preferences

Decision words: **advantage** — something that helps • **trade-off** — what a person gains and gives up • **official source** — the program, licensing agency, or college itself

Which route should Avery investigate first: associate degree or bachelor's degree? Name one possible advantage and one fact Avery must verify.

Use the frame if it helps: **Avery should investigate** _____ **first because** _____ . **One possible advantage is** _____ . **Before choosing, Avery must verify** _____ **with** _____ .

5. Decide: Make a route recommendation

Choose a fictional student for the final recommendation:

- ☐ **Jordan** wants the shortest approved route into direct patient support.
- ☐ **Avery** wants the RN route that best fits work, cost, and long-term plans.
- ☐ **Sam** wants advanced responsibility and accepts graduate school.

Plan it aloud or quietly first: Point to or check your four ingredients: **student need • preparation or license • pay label • trade-off or fact to verify.**

Complete the frame, then add the evidence and trade-off: **I recommend** _____ **for** _____ **because** _____

Done when: ☐ LVN practice + four-career comparison • ☐ pay label is accurate • ☐ preparation or responsibility difference • ☐ recommendation uses evidence + a trade-off or fact to verify