

Nurse

by Jenny Coates (Level 5)

Registered nurses, also known as RNs, are the most well-known of the various types of nursing professionals. They evaluate, diagnose, and treat health problems. Many are involved in providing direct patient care. They may specialize in areas such as surgery, obstetrics care, psychiatric care, critical care, pediatrics, geriatrics, community health, occupational health, emergency care, rehabilitation or oncology. Nursing is a varied and rewarding career choice for men and women, blending human compassion and medical knowledge with sophisticated health technology.

To become a registered nurse, you must complete a Diploma of Collegial Studies (DEC). Cégep de Sherbrooke offers a French-language 3-year DEC in nursing (Soins infirmiers) and, as of next year, Champlain Regional College (Lennoxville) will be offering the same course in English.

The hourly wage in Québec is between \$22 and \$24. Registered nurses who work full-time can earn anywhere from about \$40,000 to \$75,000 a year. They can make even more by doing overtime or for being "on-call," which means they are ready to go to work at a moment's notice. Job prospects in nursing are excellent and the demand for nurses is increasing. Today the placement rate of graduates in nursing is extremely high due to the aging work population.