

## Basic Information on Nursing Career Ladder Options

	<b>Certified Nurse Assistant</b>	<b>Licensed Vocational Nurse</b>	<b>Registered Nurse</b>
<b>Criminal Background Clearance?</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Exam?</b>	Yes, unless otherwise noted	Yes, unless otherwise noted	Yes, unless otherwise noted
<b>Path #1</b>	<p>An applicant for certification as a CNA shall comply with each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be at least sixteen (16) years of age.</li> <li>• Have successfully completed a <a href="#">training program approved by the department in California</a>, which includes an <a href="#">examination to test</a> the applicant's knowledge and skills related to basic patient care services.</li> </ul>	<p>Graduation from a California "approved" Vocational Nursing Program.</p> <p>1,530 Total Hours: Theory - *576 Hours; Clinical - 954 Hours *Includes Pharmacology - 54 Hours</p> <p>Program Length:</p> <p>Full-Time 12-14 Months of Training Part-Time 18-20 Months of Training</p>	<p>Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)</p> <p>Takes 2-3 years. Offered at many community colleges. Prepares you to provide registered nursing care in numerous settings.</p>
<b>Path #2</b>			<p>Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)</p> <p>Takes 4 years. Also referred to as Baccalaureate degree. Offered at many California State Universities and some private colleges. Prepares you to provide registered nursing care in numerous settings and to move to administrative and leadership positions.</p>
<b>Path #3</b>			<p>Entry Level Master's Program in Nursing (ELM)</p> <p>Designed for adults <u>who have a baccalaureate degree in another field and wish to become registered nurses</u>. Takes 1-2 years depending</p>

			on how many nursing course prerequisites you have already completed. Graduate receives a master's degree.
<b>Path #4</b>		Graduation from an Out-of-State "approved" Practical/Vocational Nursing Program [But do not have a current, valid license]  Required to take the LVN exam	
<b>Reciprocity</b>	Reciprocity  Transfer certificate from another state, if certain conditions are met.  No exam required	Current, Valid LVP/LPN license from another state. Passed other state exam at same level as required in California.  Do not need to take the LVN exam.	To qualify for endorsement (reciprocity) into California as an RN, you must hold a current and active RN license in another state, U.S. territory, or Canada, have completed an educational program meeting all California requirements, and have passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN®) or the State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE). The Canadian Comprehensive Examination is not acceptable. If you do not possess these qualifications, you do not qualify for licensure by endorsement and must apply for <a href="#">Licensure by Examination</a> instead.
<b>Alternative Path #1</b>	Equivalency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Present enrollment in (or completed) a Registered Nurse, Licensed Vocational Nurse, or Licensed Psychiatric Technician program,</li> <li>♦ Have received medical training in military services, or Hhave received the above license(s) from a foreign country or U.S. state, you may not have to take further training and may qualify to take the Competency Evaluation.</li> </ul>	Completion of equivalent education and experience.  Pharmacology - 54 Hours Paid Bedside Nursing Experience - 51 Months Verification of Skill Proficiency.  Note: Specific experience in pediatrics, maternity/genitourinary, and medical/surgical are required. Some experience may be substituted by care provided in a SNF.	LVN 30 Unit Option  Designed as a career ladder for California Licensed Vocational Nurses wishing to become registered nurses. Takes approximately 18-24 months. No degree is granted upon completion. Most other states do not recognize California's LVN 30 Unit Option and will not issue RN licenses to these LVNs. Some LVNs prefer to complete an ADN program in order to obtain a degree and to have the flexibility to get an RN license in other states. Most ADN programs will

			give LVNs credit for some of the coursework they completed to become an LVN.
<b>Alternative Path #2</b>	See Alternative Path #1	<p>Completion of education and experience as a corpsman in the United States military.</p> <p>Twelve (12) months active duty rendering direct bedside patient care.</p> <p>Completion of the basic course in nursing in a branch of the armed forces.</p> <p>General honorable discharge from the military</p>	<p>Military Corpsmen</p> <p>California law permits military corpsmen to take the national exam for RN licensure if they have completed RN level education and clinical experience.</p>
<b>Links to Additional Information</b>	CDPH Certified Nurse Assistant: <a href="https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/CNA.aspx#CNAforms">https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/CNA.aspx#CNAforms</a>		
	Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technician: <a href="https://www.bvnpt.ca.gov/">https://www.bvnpt.ca.gov/</a>		
	Board of Registered Nursing: <a href="https://www.rn.ca.gov/index.shtml">https://www.rn.ca.gov/index.shtml</a>		