

New England
Nursing Clinical Faculty
and Preceptor Academy

Nursing Glossary

LPN: Licensed Practical Nurse

- Provides a functional nursing license which is more limited in scope of practice as compared with a registered nurse (RN) particularly related to administering some medications, performing some procedures and leadership/supervisory functions. The scope of practice can vary by state (also called Licensed Vocational Nurse).

ADN-RN: Associate Degree in Nursing

- The registered nurse designation is considered the gold standard for nursing practice. An associate degree prepared registered nurse attends a 2–3-year program (e.g., a community college) which permits the graduate to sit for the national licensing exam, National Council Licensure Exam or NCLEX.

BSN-RN: Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree

- The registered nurse designation is considered the gold standard for nursing practice. A bachelor's degree prepared registered nurse attends a traditional college/university-based program (usually 4 years) which permits the graduate to sit for the national licensing exam, National Council Licensure Exam or NCLEX. It is recognized as the preferred degree preparation for professional nurses.

Accelerated RN Programs

- These programs accept candidates with a previous non-nursing bachelor's degree or higher into an accelerated nursing preparatory program which permits the graduate to sit for the national licensing exam, National Council Licensure Exam or NCLEX. Based on the program, the graduate obtains the RN credential and may obtain a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or a certificate, based on the university and/or state regulations.

APP: Advanced Practice Provider

- Nurse Practitioner (NP), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Certified Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA).
 - Advanced Practice Nurses attend graduate school and may attain a master's degree or DNP degree.
 - They are prepared for advanced nursing practice which includes diagnosis and clinical decision making (determining, ordering, and interpreting appropriate tests/imaging studies, prescribing/monitoring non-pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical therapies) and engage in all levels of preventative care. The full scope of practice is determined by state regulations.
 - NPs can be certified in Family, Adult-Gero, Pediatrics, Psychiatric Mental Health, and other specialties.

DNP: Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree

- This is a practice doctorate degree. This degree is the desired terminal degree for Advanced Practice Nurses per the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and National Organization of NP Facilities (NONPF). DNP graduates are prepared to be professional clinical and systems leaders using evidence-based knowledge to improve healthcare outcomes in both clinical and academic settings.

Physician Glossary

Medical Students: Students have completed at least a college degree.

- **Years 1 & 2:** Students study basic sciences essential for medicine. They learn the medical interview and the physical exam and practice these in both the in-patient and out-patient settings under the supervision of faculty members who are practicing physicians.
- **Year 3:** Students rotate through the major medical specialties (Family Medicine, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics, Neurology, and Psychiatry) in both the in-patient and out-patient settings. They have specific patients assigned to them but work under the direct supervision of the other team members (Interns, Residents, Fellows and Attendings). They propose plans and medications which are ultimately approved by the Attending physician.
- **Year 4:** Students do several weeks of “sub-Internship” or “Acting Internship”, usually in the in-patient setting. They care for more patients and do more complete work-ups and plans which must still be approved by the Attending physician.

Residents: Physicians who have completed medical school and are training in a particular specialty. Training can be from 3 to 7 years, depending on the specialty. They treat patients and prescribe medications under the supervision of a senior physician. The first year of residency is usually called Internship; the **Intern** works under the direct supervision of the senior residents and the Attending.

- **Note:** there are many medical specialties; the most well-known include: Anesthesia, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Orthopedics, Pediatrics and Psychiatry.

Fellows: Physicians who have completed resident training in a specialty and are pursuing advanced study (Fellowship of 1-3 years) in a sub-specialty. They treat patients and prescribe medications; they practice under the direction of the senior physician/Attending. They help teach and supervise medical students and residents.

- **Note:** examples of subspecialties in Internal Medicine include cardiology, pulmonology, hematology, gastro-intestinal medicine, geriatrics, as well as others.

Attending: A practicing physician who has completed all his/her training. The senior physician on a team; teaches and supervises all trainees (from medical students through fellows) and ultimately approves all treatment plans and medications. The term usually applies to physicians in the hospital setting. Another common term for the senior supervising physician is **Preceptor**.