

What are the Differences Between a Diploma Nurse and a BSN Nurse?

A diploma nurse is someone who completes a nursing course associated with a hospital or medical facility. Diploma nursing was popular during World War II all the way through the mid-1970s but very few locations offer this opportunity today. A BSN---or Bachelor of Science in Nursing---requires a more extensive college education but is less restrictive, as it allows a graduate to work in any health care or home care facility of her choosing.

Schooling

Diploma nurses attend classes and hands-on training in nursing schools associated with hospitals or medical facilities rather than traditional colleges. Full-time students attend five days a week, on average for three years. Often, community colleges collaborate with diploma facilities to offer professional teaching from nursing instructors so students can prepare for RN licensure. Someone obtaining a BSN in nursing attends a four year college or university before becoming eligible to take the RN licensure exams. A BSN involves more advanced schooling and specialty training. A nurse with a BSN also accumulates credit hours, which makes it easier to specialize in a particular field and obtain credentials.

Areas of Employment

There are some limitations on diploma nurses. While these nurses can generally find entry level positions in hospitals or inpatient facilities, they are limited to just that. Most are not trained extensively enough to be able to work in specialty practices such as oncology, pediatrics or anesthesia. This path is a good alternative for someone who wants to quickly obtain RN licensure. Nurses who hold a BSN have more flexibility in where they can work. Even at an entry level, An RN BSN can start working within his specialty such as cardiac, pediatrics, critical care, neurology and hospice in either home care or a medical facility.

Areas of Expertise

Although they are trained in many of the same subjects as a BSN, diploma nurses need to go to an accredited college or university to obtain an ASN, BSN or MSN degree. At that point, they may take the required courses to obtain a specialty credential if desired. There are hundreds of varied credentials, certifications, degrees and state licensures that can be obtained by a nurse who has her BSN.

Pay Scale

The general pay scale varies for both the nursing diploma and the BSN. For entry level positions with a diploma nurse, the pay scale is between \$16 and \$20 per hour. According to allnurses.com, the starting pay scale for a BSN is between \$25 and \$30 per hour. There can also be an increase due to shift changes and geographical areas where the nurse is employed. Some large hospitals or specialty home care units may pay more than smaller facilities.

Continuing Education

A BSN is a college degree and a recognized level of nursing represented by the credential at the end of the nurse's legal name. The BSN degree also allows the opportunity for growth. A graduate nurse with a BSN can begin to acquire continuing education credits. A nurse can obtain these credits by attending classes, seminars and reading data over the web. These credits, along with working in the clinical field as a graduate nurse, allow nurses to obtain a masters in nursing, or MSN. This can lead to more independent nursing careers

such as a nurse practitioner, clinical specialist nurse or a nurse anesthetist. Diploma nurses can enroll in a RN to BSN program. This program will give them the education and credit hours they need to complete their BSN degree. Most programs are flexible and offer part-time classes and evening hours so nurses can work while finishing school.

BSN Curriculum Example

<http://www.nursing.umich.edu/academics/bsn/curriculum.html>

Diploma Nursing Information

<http://onlinenursingdegreeguide.org/nursing-degrees/earn-your-nursing-diploma/>

Nursing Pay Scales

[http://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Registered_Nurse_\(RN\)/Hourly_Rate](http://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Registered_Nurse_(RN)/Hourly_Rate)

Continuing Education Credits for Nursing

<http://www.nursingceu.com/>