CAREER ADVANCEMENT IN NURSING

**Doctoral Education**
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- Doctor of Nursing Science (DNS)

**Masters of Science in Nursing**
- Advanced Practice Roles: Nurse Practitioner (NP), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
- Other Roles: Nurse Educator, Nurse Administrator, Clinical Nurse Leader, Clinical Nurse Leader

**Registered Nurse Education**
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)
- Diploma in Nursing

**Technical/Vocational Level**
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)

- **Technical/Vocational Level (LPN) program length**: 15-18 months in technical or community college setting
- **Associate Degree (ADN-RN) program length**: 2-3 years in a community college setting
- **Diploma (RN) program**: 3 years
- **Bachelor of Science Degree (BSN-RN) program length**: 4 years in a university setting; some accelerated bachelor’s in nursing programs for individuals with previous bachelor’s degrees may be completed in less than 4 years of study. RNs with the ADN or the diploma RN credential may acquire the BSN in less than 4 years.
- **Master of Science Degree**: graduate level study in a university setting: 2 years in length after completion of the BSN degree.
- **Doctoral Level Degree program length**: 3-8 years in a university setting.
- **Note**: Some newer BSN to PhD/DNP programs may allow students to move through various educational levels in a faster time frame.

*Source: Melinda Oberleitner, RN, DNS, APRN, CNS - 2009*