



Certified Nurse Practitioner

A **Certified Nurse Practitioner**, or CNP, is a registered nurse who has advanced education and clinical training in a healthcare specialty area. Nurse Practitioners work with people of all ages and their families and may conduct physical exams, diagnose, prescribe medications, and order lab tests or x-rays if needed.

- ◆ **Education:** CNPs complete a nationally accredited graduate nursing degree program. They are educated and nationally certified to provide primary and specialty health care in the following areas:
 - ◆ **Acute Care:** adults or children with emphasis on acutely and critically ill.
 - ◆ **Adult:** adolescents and adults with emphasis on disease prevention, health promotion, and management of acute and chronic multi-system health problems.
 - ◆ **Family:** infants, children, adolescents, adults, pregnant and postpartum women, and older adults.
 - ◆ **Gerontology:** older adults.
 - ◆ **Neonatal:** infants with emphasis on acutely and critically ill.
 - ◆ **Pediatrics:** infants, children, adolescents, and young adults with emphasis on primary health care and management of acute illnesses, chronic diseases, and disabilities.
 - ◆ **Psych-Mental Health:** children, adolescents, adults, and families with emphasis on psychiatric-mental health care.
 - ◆ **Women's Health:** women across the life cycle with emphasis on conditions unique to women from menarche through the remainder of their life cycle.

- ◆ **Educational Programs:** Visit the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to explore educational opportunities in this field at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CCNE/reports/accprog.asp> or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. at http://www.nlnac.org/Forms/directory_search.htm

- ◆ **Work Environment:** CNPs work in both rural and urban settings, including:
 - ◆ Physician and Nurse Practitioner Clinics
 - ◆ Business Employee Health Settings
 - ◆ Community Health Centers
 - ◆ Nursing Homes and Home Health Care
 - ◆ Public Health Departments
 - ◆ Emergency and Urgent Care Clinics
 - ◆ Hospitals
 - ◆ Armed Forces / Veteran's Administration Facilities
 - ◆ Schools of Nursing
 - ◆ School and College Student Health Clinics

- ◆ **Licensure:** Visit the South Dakota Board of Nursing's link to explore licensure requirements for CNPs. www.nursing.sd.gov

- ◆ **Salary:** CNPs salaries vary widely depending on location and type of practice, on average a CNP salary is approximately \$70,000 annually.

- ◆ **Job Outlook:** Jobs for CNPs are expected to grow faster than average through the year 2016. Visit the South Dakota Department of Labor website to register for job opportunities in South Dakota. <https://apps.sd.gov/applications/LD00General/Login.aspx>