Indigenous Health, Education, and Resources Taskforce (IHEART)

NURSING

Last updated August 2026

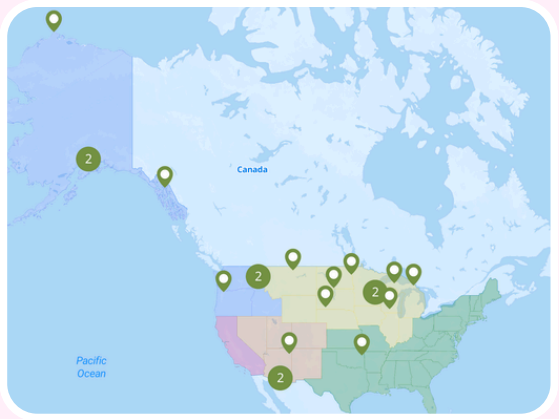
What kind of nurse do you want to be?

This list has some of the most-needed nursing certifications & degrees today. There are many more degrees to explore!

- **Certified Nursing Assistant** (6-8 weeks) or **Licensed Practical Nurse** (1+ year)
  - Provide basic medical care for patients and work under the direction of others with more training
- **Registered Nurse**
  - Most RN programs are 2 years; can also work as RN by earning a Bachelors of Science in nursing (4 years)
  - Work with doctors and other providers
  - Can focus in a particular field like cardiology, elder care, or emergency
- **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse**
  - Earn an additional Master's (18 months-2 years) or Doctoral degree (3-4 years) after becoming an RN
  - Work with specific patients/in a particular setting
- **Doctor of Nursing Practice** (2-4 years)
  - Earn an additional Doctoral degree after becoming an RN or completing a Bachelor's in nursing
  - Take on advanced leadership and research roles

Recommended pathway programs

These nursing schools and programs provide specific academic, cultural, and/or financial support to Indigenous students. Learn more at iheartworkforce.org/map



Organizations

- National Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association
- Oklahoma Indigenous Nurses Association
- Native American Nurses Association of Arizona
- We are Healers
- Urban Indian Health Institute
- AISES
- American Nurses Association
- National Nurses United
- National Council of Urban Indian Health

Financial Aid

- American Indian Medical Scholarship
- American Indian College Fund
- Cobell Scholarships
- IHS Scholarships
- FLIP Nursing Scholarship Program

See more financial aid options on the IHEART website.

Keep up with IHEART:

iheartnativeworkforce.org

IHEART is a national collaborative body led by the Association of American Indian Physicians, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Association of Native American Medical Students, Association of American Medical Colleges, and the Indian Health Service.