Nurse Practitioner (NP)
A Nurse Practitioner conduct physical exams; diagnose and treat common acute illnesses and injuries; provide immunizations; manage high blood pressure, diabetes, and other chronic problems; order and interpret X-rays and other lab tests; and counsel patients on adopting healthy lifestyles and health care options as a part of their clinical roles. In addition to practicing in clinics and hospitals in metropolitan areas, the nation's estimated 158,348 nurse practitioners also deliver care in rural sites, inner cities, and other locations not adequately served by physicians, as well as to other populations, such as children in schools and the elderly. Many NPs work in pediatrics, family health, women's health, and other specialties, and some have private practices. Nurse practitioners can prescribe medications in all states, while 23 states have given NPs authority to practice independently without physician collaboration or supervision. Nurse Practitioners typically earn an undergraduate degree in nursing, obtain licensure as a registered nurse and then earn a master's degree in nursing. 
http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Education/nurse_ed/career.htm

Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is an Advanced Practice nurse who holds a master's or doctoral degree in a specialized area of nursing practice. The CNS provides care in a range of specialty areas, such as cardiac, oncology, neonatal, and obstetric/gynecological nursing, as well as pediatrics, neurological nursing, and psychiatric/mental health. Working in hospitals and other clinical sites, CNSs provide acute care and mental health services, develop quality assurance procedures, and serve as educators and consultants. An estimated 59,242 clinical nurse specialists are currently in practice.

Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM)
The Certified Nurse-Midwife is prepared to provide prenatal and gynecological care to normal healthy women; deliver babies in hospitals, private homes, and birthing centers; and continue with follow-up postpartum care. In 2002, CNM deliveries accounted for 8.1 percent of all births in the U.S. There are approximately 18,492 CNMs nationwide. The CNM must have a BS or Master's degree in nursing and complete specialized training in midwifery. In the US, certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) must earn certification from the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
The Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist is prepared to administer anesthetics given to patients. According to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), of the 24 million anesthetics given annually, about 20 percent are administered by CRNAs practicing independently and 80 percent by CRNAs in collaboration with physician anesthesiologists. CRNAs administer anesthesia for all types of surgery in settings ranging from operating rooms and dental offices to outpatient surgical centers. There are more than 34,821 CRNAs in practice nationwide. The advanced nursing profession of nurse anesthesia requires a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in nurse anesthesia. Nurse anesthetist programs may use the title Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) for their terminal degree. Certification is granted via examination by an accredited educational facility, and recertification is required every two years.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice
The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is an advanced-level practice degree that focuses on the clinical aspects of nursing rather than academic research. The curriculum for the DNP degree generally includes advanced practice, leadership, and application of clinical research. The DNP is intended primarily to prepare registered nurses to become advanced practice nurses. Advanced practice roles in nursing include the nurse practitioner (NP), certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), certified nurse midwife (CNM), and the clinical nurse specialist (CNS). For a list of Frequently Asked Questions visit http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/pdf/faq.pdf
Advanced Prepared Nurse

**Nurse Administrator/Executive**
The essence and values of nursing form the basis for all nursing roles and are the foundation for nursing administration. The elements that guide nurse executive practice include: Networks of wellness, acute care, ambulatory and long term care providers; collaboration among health professionals in interdependent functions; partnerships with consumers; collective accountability; advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves; leadership in cost effective patient care. Within the continuum of nursing executive practice there exist varying titles and an evolving, dynamic configuration of functions. There are varied scopes of accountability and focuses of practice. Influencing, direction setting, designing the processes for care delivery, and system development are some of the functions that have evolved into nurse executive practice. Nurse executives must have strong leadership and management skills, along with critical thinking, decision-making, and communication skills. Nurse executives are Master’s and/or Doctorate-level prepared nurses in a wide range of disciplines. [http://www.nursesource.org/executive.html](http://www.nursesource.org/executive.html)

**Nurse Educator**
Nurse educators combine clinical expertise and a passion for teaching into rich and rewarding careers. These professionals, who work in the classroom and the practice setting, are responsible for preparing and mentoring current and future generations of nurses. Nurse educators play a pivotal role in strengthening the nursing workforce, serving as role models and providing the leadership needed to implement evidence-based practice. Nurse educators are prepared at the master’s or doctoral level and practice as faculty in colleges, universities, hospital-based schools of nursing or technical schools, or as staff development educators in health care facilities. [http://www.nursesource.org/nurse_educator.html](http://www.nursesource.org/nurse_educator.html)

**Nurse Researcher**
Nurse researchers are scientists who study various aspects of health, illness, and health care. By designing and implementing scientific studies, they look for ways to improve health, healthcare services, and healthcare outcomes. Nurse researchers identify research questions, design and conduct scientific studies, collect and analyze data, and report their findings. They often rely on grants to fund their work, which requires writing grant proposals and meeting certain reporting requirements. Many teach in academic or clinical settings, and often write articles and research reports for nursing, medical, and other professional journals and publications. Almost all nurse researchers begin their careers as registered nurses with a four-year degree. Most then complete a master’s degree in nursing, followed by a Ph.D. A doctorate is increasingly required for advanced nursing research, leading some nursing schools to develop educational programs that allow students to pursue higher education while working. [http://www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

**Nurse Case Manager**
Case Management Nursing focuses on planning and managing all aspects of patient care and services for their assigned cases. Case Management Nursing duties include assessing and monitoring patients, determining eligibility for treatments, making use of clinical pathways in order to determine whether the plan of care being provided meets the patient's needs, and arranging for additional services as needed in order to help patients achieve desired outcomes. A Case Management Nurse conducts research, analyzes data, and coordinates patient care with all members of the patient's health care team providing each patient with individual planning and planning in order to ensure optimum outcome while also seeking to ensure care and services provided are appropriate to patient needs and cost effective. RN with BSN or MSN (preferred) [http://www.myonlinenursingdegree.com/case-management-nursing.html](http://www.myonlinenursingdegree.com/case-management-nursing.html)

**Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL)**
Clinical Nurse Leaders are masters prepared registered nurses who focus on the improvement of quality and safety outcomes for patients or patient populations. A CNL is prepared as a generalist with clinical and leadership skills and training in health care systems management at the clinical unit level. Clinically competent to care for patients, knowledgeable of disease processes, skilled in psychosocial evaluation of patient and family, can identify the need to consult with Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) and other allied health providers; knowledgeable about pharmacologic therapies and drug interactions, able to integrate care of multiple disciplines to achieve highest outcomes. Maintains certification in clinical specialty. [http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNL/about.htm](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNL/about.htm)