

Career Preparation Tips

Resume building

- Keep an ongoing list of achievements, clinical rotations, licenses and certifications, volunteer work and leadership or service roles.
 - Use this information to build and regularly update your resume (or CV).
- Identify and maintain contact with potential professional references.
- **MCR:** Complete your e-portfolio. Include clinical research projects, writing samples and demonstrated competencies. Add the link to your resume.

Networking

- Begin building your professional network early in your program.
- Share your career goals with instructors, mentors and peers.
- Join student nursing or clinical research organizations.
 - Visit the [Student Involvement Opportunities](#) page on the website.
- Attend The Ohio State University College of Nursing Career Fair each year to meet potential employers.
- Consider joining LinkedIn, connect with classmates and faculty and expand your network.
- Join professional associations such as Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP), Society of Clinical Research Associates (SoCRA), International Association of Clinical Research Nurses (IACRN) American Nurses Association, American Association of Nurse Practitioners or other state nursing organizations.
- Volunteer in professional organizations or committees to build connections.
- **MCR:** Attend MCR career webinars (autumn and spring).

Hands-on experience

- Apply for student nursing assistant (SNA) roles, as available.
- Consider externships, part-time roles or research-related positions while in your program (balance with coursework and clinical demands).
- Avoid overcommitting in final years or terms when exams and clinical intensives require focused preparation.

Licensure and certification preparation

- Review the [Ohio licensure process](#).
- Pre-register for the NCLEX (typically four to six months before graduation).
- **GE, MSN:** Eligible to take NCLEX-RN in spring of second year (after completing prelicensure coursework).
- **MCR:** Explore eligibility for professional certifications (ACRP, SoCRA, IACRN).
 - The MCR program may count toward one of the two years of required experience.

Final months of program

- Finalize your resume (and e-portfolio or CV, if applicable).
- Continue to expand your network and apply early for positions.
- Stay engaged with Career Services for resume review, job applications and interview preparation.

Need help?

Contact Career Services for assistance with your resume, job applications, interview preparation and more.



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