

Pediatric Nurse Scientist



APRN

Pediatric nurse scientists (or nurse researchers) investigate how to make health care better for kids, families, communities. Sometimes they explore how to better support nurses. Whatever topic they tackle, they use evidence and best practices to transform outcomes.



Passion for data and how it can improve child health



People skills to mentor and manage staff supporting research projects and grant funding opportunities



Writing skills for grants, reports, journal articles, and research protocols

Keywords

- Scientific Breakthrough
- Curious
- Detail Oriented
- Foresight to explore the "what," "how," and "why"

Career Steps

1

After at least 1 year of experience as a pediatric RN, earn your masters (MSN) in a pediatric advanced practice nurse role from an accredited university. Pass your certification exam, obtain your APRN license, and gain experience in your new role.

2

Pursue either a PhD or a doctorate of nursing practice (DNP) with a research/evidence-based practice focus.

3

Gain 3 to 5 years of experience participating in and leading research and evidence-based practice.

4

Participate in research studies, translation of knowledge, and other scholarly activities (writing, publishing, presenting, grant writing, teaching evidence-based practice, etc.).

5

Identify a nurse scientist mentor in order to learn about the unique role and qualifications needed, as well as how to structure a program.

6

Start your job search at PNCB's career center: <https://careers.pncb.org/jobseekers/> using terms like nurse scientist, nurse researcher, evidence-based practice specialist, and coordinator of nurse research.



Links for further reading

- The National Pediatric Nurse Scientist Collaborative (NPNSC): <https://npnsc.org/>
- Pediatric Nursing Certification Board: The Certified Pediatric Nurse Role: <https://pncb.org/cpn-role>



References

- Medical scientists: Occupational outlook handbook. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. January 9, 2023. Accessed May 17, 2023. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/medical-scientists.htm>.



Earn pediatric nurse certification at pncb.org