Find out about the types of jobs you could pursue in intensive career units. Read on to learn more about career options along with salary and licensure information.

!!!Career Information At a Glance

People who work in intensive care units take care of patients when they first arrive at a hospital. Get details on the education needed for various positions, and check the salary potential for a few ICU jobs from the following table.

I	Critical Care Nurse
Degree Required	Associate's or bachel
Education Field of Study	Nursing
Training/Certification Required	Registered nurse des
	Calm under pressure,
Key Skills	aid
Job Growth (2012–2022)	19% ''(for all register
Average Salary (2013)	\$68,910 ''(for all regi

"Source: *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics"

!!What Intensive Care Unit Careers Are There?

Some professionals that work in intensive care units of hospitals include critical care nurses, anesthesiologists and respiratory therapists. If you become a critical care nurse, you would administer medicine, treat wounds, monitor patients and offer support. Nurses need to obtain licensure by passing the appropriate National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

If you become an anesthesiologist, you would relieve the pain of patients in an intensive care unit and check vital signs during operations. As a respiratory therapist, you would work under the supervision of a physician providing respiratory treatments and caring for patients on life support. You might provide emergency care to patients who have survived heart attacks, strokes, drowning and shock. You could also help premature infants with lungs that aren't fully developed and elderly patients with respiratory diseases.

!!What Should I Study?

To become an anesthesiologist, you need to complete a bachelor's degree program, four years of medical school and 3-8 years in an internship or residency. You would also need to obtain certification in this specialty. Critical care nurses must enroll in a nursing program, during which you would take classes and learn experientially from in a medical setting. You would study anatomy, chemistry, nutrition, psychology and nursing theory.

You can find associate's degree and bachelor's degree programs in respiratory therapy through colleges and universities, medical schools, vocational schools and the military. Your coursework would include anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, chemistry, physics, microbiology, pharmacology and mathematics. You would learn about treatments, diagnostic procedures, equipment, patient assessment, CPR and respiratory health. Most states require respiratory therapists to obtain licensure.

!!What Might I Earn?

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for registered nurses was \$68,910 as of May 2013 ("www.bls.gov"). Respiratory therapists earned a mean annual wage of \$57,880 that same year. Anesthesiologists who were employed in general medical and surgical hospitals earned a salary of \$235,070 a year on average.