

AMSN Career Roadmap

Use this roadmap as a guide to your medical-surgical nursing career, from starting nursing school to establishing yourself as a medical-surgical nurse leader.

1: Nursing School

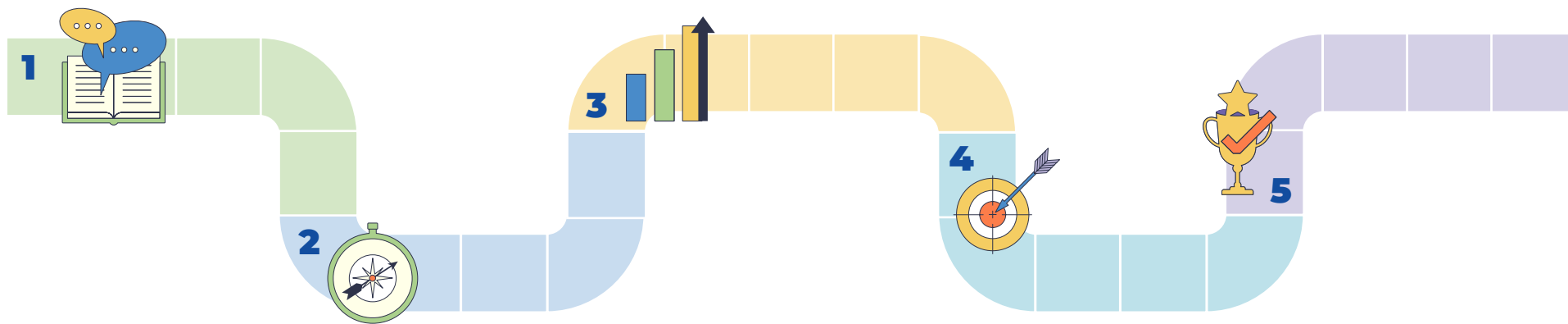
- Join the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSN) with a **Free Student Membership**
- Apply for AMSN **Education and Student Grants and Scholarships**
- Look for volunteer opportunities or experience with the medical-surgical specialty through internships and externships
- Prepare for and schedule your NCLEX exam to earn your nursing license

3: Building Your Career

- Consider getting involved in unit-based opportunities at work
- **Join AMSN** and consider getting involved in local chapters, mentorship programs, and plan to attend the AMSN Convention
- Keep up to date with the AMSN publications including **Advancing Medical-Surgical Nursing**, the **Med-Surg Moments podcast**, and the **Medical-Surgical Monitor**
- Learn more about and pursue your **Certified Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN) certification**
- Review certification licensure requirements and explore **certification exam prep resources**

5. Career Ladder for More Experienced Nurses

- Pursue advanced degree opportunities such as your MSN, DNP, or PhD
- Pursue leadership growth opportunities
- Work on individualized research projects to present at the AMSN Convention
- Contribute to **Advancing Medical-Surgical Nursing**, the **Med-Surg Moments podcast**, and the **Medical-Surgical Monitor**
- Explore AMSN **Grants and Scholarships** and consider becoming an **AMSN Fellow**



2: Starting Your Career

- Research where you want to work – consider the mission, vision, and values of each hospital or health system
- Consider shadowing in a medical-surgical unit
- Ask questions of medical-surgical nurses at all levels and career stages
- Look for residency, preceptorship, and/or mentorship programs
- Look for opportunities to practice interviewing and begin to craft your resume

4: Advancing Your Career

- Consider getting involved in hospital/system wide opportunities
- Explore larger volunteer opportunities within AMSN – chapter leader, committee chair, Board of Directors
- Seek leadership roles such as nurse manager or charge nurse and look for opportunities to precept or mentor early career nurses
- **Earn CE to maintain** your Certified Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN®) certification