

Comparison of Nursing Education in Japan and China

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Introduction

With the intensification of population aging and the improvement of social medical needs, nursing education has received unprecedented attention in the world.

Here, I will compare the differences between the nursing education in Japan and China, and analyze their respective characteristics and advantages, especially the reform and future development direction of nursing education in China.

Topics

1. Nursing System
2. Basic Nursing Education and Contents
3. Development of Nursing University Education and Graduate Education
4. Improvements in Credentials

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1. Nursing System

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Development of Modern Nursing

In Japan,

- Modern nursing developed rapidly with the introduction of Western medicine in **1868**.
- The beginning of nursing education system dates back to **1874** and the establishment of the “Isei” medical regulation, which provided for the education and licensing of midwives, and marked the start of their training.
- In **1885**, the first nurse-training institute was established, and modern nursing education began.

In China,

- Modern nursing education can be traced back to **1888** with the establishment of the first nursing school at Fuzhou, Fujian province (Gao et al., 2012).
- Most nursing educations was suspended during **the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)**. Short training courses were adopted to fill the gap.
- Until **the early 1980s**, all nursing education programs were 3-year diploma programs in secondary nursing schools.
- The 3-year advanced diploma programs and the 4- or 5-year baccalaureate programs in college and university began to appear **since the 1980s**.

Nursing Qualification

In order to become a nursing professional, it is necessary to.....

Japan	China
Completing basic nursing education	Completing basic nursing education
Passing the national public health nursing, midwifery, or nursing examinations, then obtaining a license (national qualification) from the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)	Passing the nurse licensing examination by the Ministry of Health responsible for the organization and implementation, then obtaining a license (national qualification)
<u>Licensure: Lifelong, without a renewal system.</u>	<u>Licensure: valid for 5 years, applying to the original registration department for renewal of registration 30 days before the expiration date.</u>

Occupations Involved in the Provision of Nursing Care

In Japan,

- Public Health Nurse
- Midwife
- Nurse

In China,

- Midwife
- Nurse

Topics

1. Nursing System

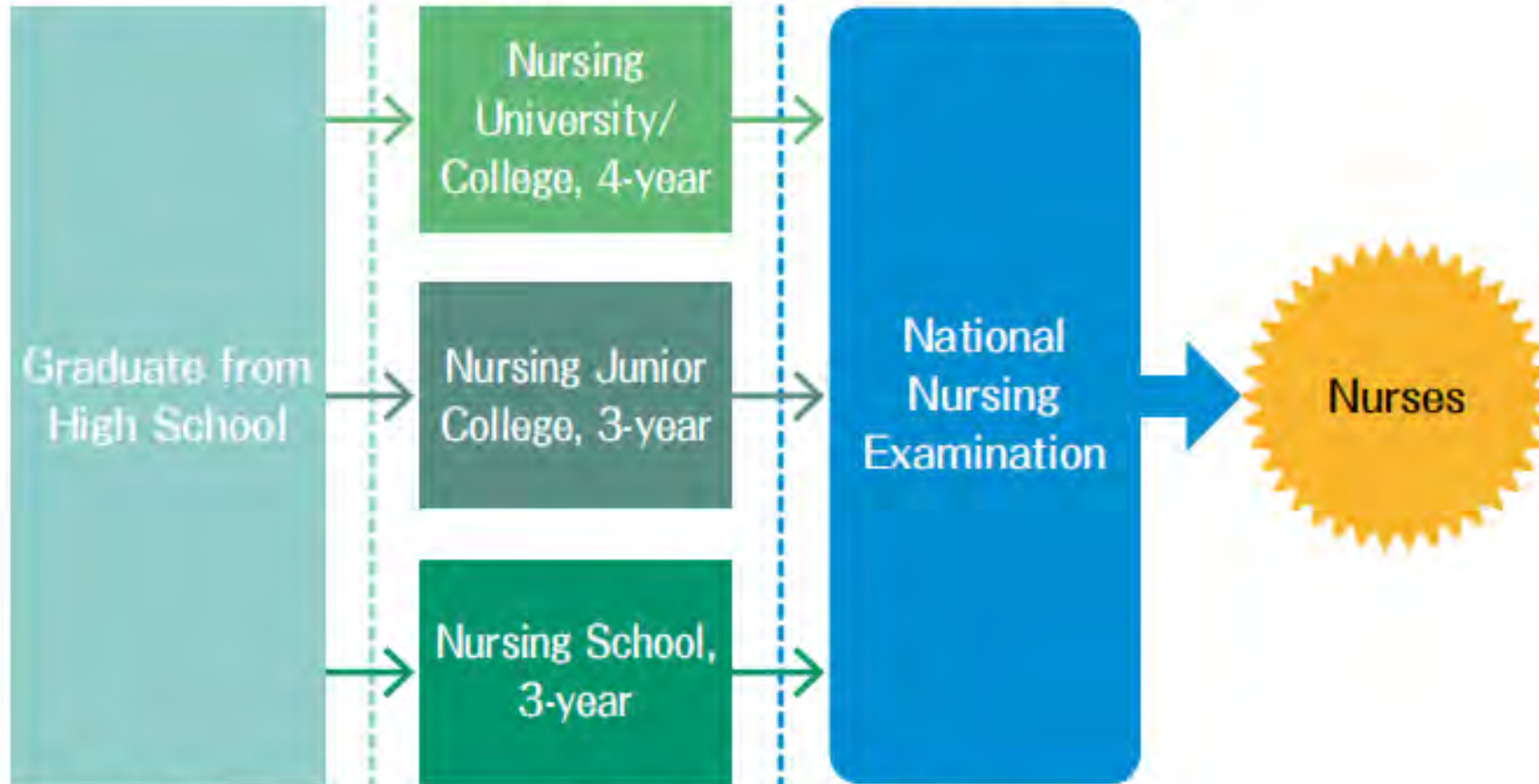
2. Basic Nursing Education and Contents

3. Development of Nursing University Education and Graduate Education

4. Improvements in Credentials

Basic Nursing Education (in Japan)

Figure 4-1 Basic nursing education



Source: Prepared by the Japanese Nursing Association

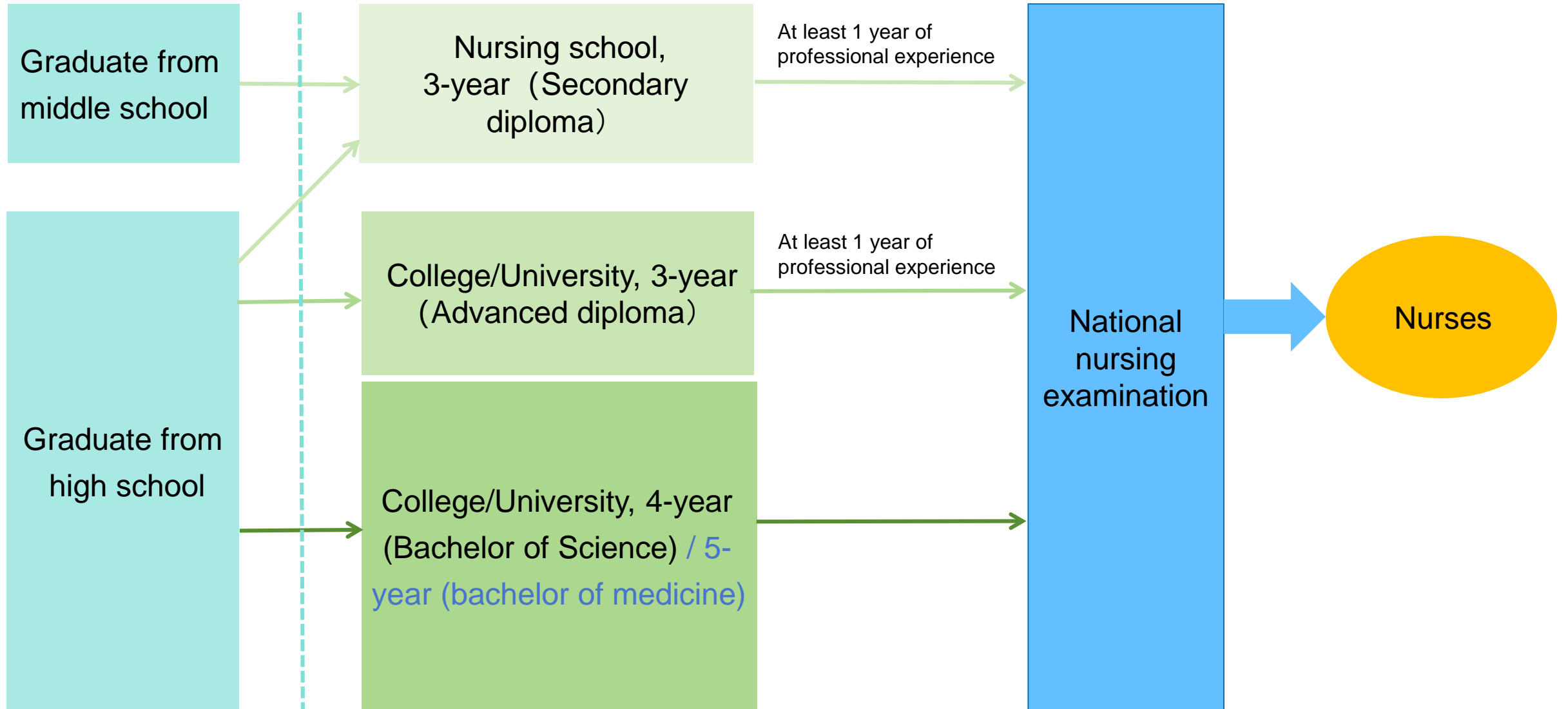
Contents of Basic Nursing Education (in Japan)

Table 4-1 Appendix 3 of Ordinance for Designating Training Schools for Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses

Education contents		Credits
Foundational studies	Basics of scientific thinking	14
	Understanding of humans, living and society	
Specialized basic studies	Human body structure and functions	16
	Disease mechanism and recovery promotion	
	Health support and social security system	6
Specialized studies	Basic nursing	11
	Community health/Home care nursing	6 (4)
	Adult health nursing	6
	Gerontological nursing	4
	Child health nursing	4
	Maternal nursing	4
	Mental health and psychiatric nursing	4
	Nursing integration and practice	4
	Clinical training	23
	Basic nursing	3
	Community health/Home care nursing	2
	Adult health nursing	4
	Gerontological nursing	
	Child health nursing	2
	Maternal nursing	2
	Mental health and psychiatric nursing	2
	Nursing integration and practice	2
Total		102 (100)

Source : Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Appendix 3 of Ordinance for Designating Training Schools for Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses, <https://elaws.e-gov.go.jp/document?lawid=326M50000180001>

Basic Nursing Education (in China)



Contents of Basic Nursing Education (in China)

- In 2007, the Ministry of Education established the Guiding Committee for Nursing Teaching in colleges and universities, and formulated documents such as "Professional Norms for Undergraduate Nursing" and "Standards for Undergraduate Medical Education - Nursing Specialty".
- In 2011, the Academic Degrees Committee of The State Council officially approved nursing as a first-level discipline under the medical department.
- In 2019, the Ministry of Education established the Nursing Professional Certification Working Committee.

Standards for Undergraduate Medical Education - Nursing Specialty (in China)

Education Contents		Credit Hours/Weeks
Public Foundation Courses	Ideological and political theory, computer, foreign language, politics, philosophy, law, sports, military theory, etc	
Basic Medical Courses	Human anatomy, physiology, Histoembryology, biochemistry, Medical immunology, pathogenic biology, pathology, pharmacology, medical statistics, etc	
Nursing Professional Courses	Fundamentals of nursing, Health assessment, Internal Medicine Nursing, Surgical Nursing, Obstetrics and Gynecology nursing, pediatric nursing, geriatric nursing, acute and critical care nursing, Psychiatric nursing, community nursing, nursing research, as well as integrated courses and clinical internships that include these	
Nursing Humanities and Social Sciences Courses	Nursing ethics, nursing psychology, nursing management, nursing education, interpersonal communication and etiquette, etc	
Nursing Professional Practice	Internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, emergency department, intensive care unit, psychiatry, community health service center, etc	≥40 weeks

Undergraduate Education of Nursing Major in University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (in China)

In addition to the above, also.....

Education Contents		Credit Hours/Weeks
Basic course of Chinese medicine	Introduction to traditional Chinese medicine (Including Traditional Chinese Medicine foundation, Traditional Chinese Medicine diagnosis, drug administration, prescription and so on)	180 ~ 300 credit hours
Traditional Chinese Medicine nursing basic course	Basis of nursing of traditional Chinese medicine (Including the basic knowledge of Traditional Chinese Medicine nursing and the basic technology of Traditional Chinese Medicine nursing)	
Traditional Chinese Medicine nursing specialty course	Clinical nursing of traditional Chinese medicine (Including Traditional Chinese Medicine internal medicine nursing, Traditional Chinese Medicine surgical nursing, Traditional Chinese Medicine gynecology nursing, Traditional Chinese Medicine pediatric nursing and so)	
Nursing practice of traditional Chinese medicine	Special department of traditional Chinese medicine	≥ 4 weeks

From “Standards for Undergraduate Medical Education - Nursing Specialty”

Professional Norms for Undergraduate Nursing (in China)

Course	Credit Hours	Course	Credit Hours
Basic Nursing	Minimum: 144 (72 theory, 72 training) Maximum: 180 (90 theory, 90 training)	Nursing Ethics	18
Health assessment	Minimum: 72 (54 theory, 18 training) Maximum: 108 (72 theory, 36 training)	Nursing Psychology	24
Internal Medicine Nursing	Minimum: 140 (100 theory, 40 training) Maximum: 200 (136 theory, 64 training)	Nursing Management	24
Surgical Nursing	Minimum: 108 (72 theory, 36 training) Maximum: 168 (108 theory, 60 training)	Nursing Education	18
Obstetrics and Gynecology nursing	Minimum: 64 (46 theory, 18 training) Maximum: 99 (66 theory, 33 training)	Nursing Research	18
Pediatric nursing	Minimum: 58 (40 theory, 18 training) Maximum: 86 (56 theory, 30 training)	Community Nursing	24
Psychiatric nursing	Minimum: 24 (20 theory, 4 training) Maximum: 42 (34 theory, 8 training)		

theory: 1 credit; training: 30 Credit Hours=1 credit

Persons in Charge

- Professional Personnel Training Program:
 - Professional supervisor system (formulation, demonstration, revision, implementation.....)
- Course Outline:
 - Course supervisor system (course content, **course hours**, teaching methods.....)



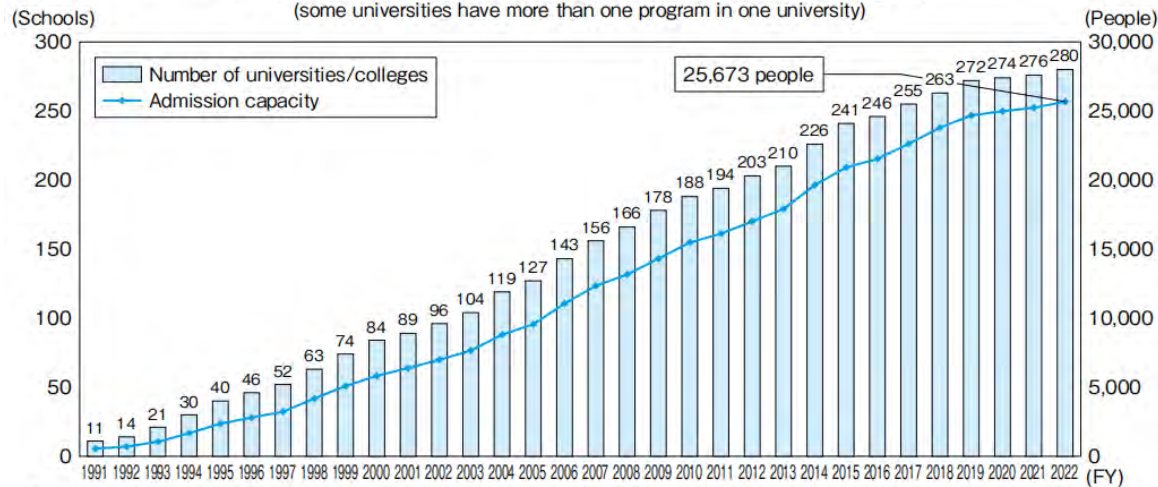
After completing the courses specified in the program and passing the examinations, the students can take nursing qualification examination and graduate from University.

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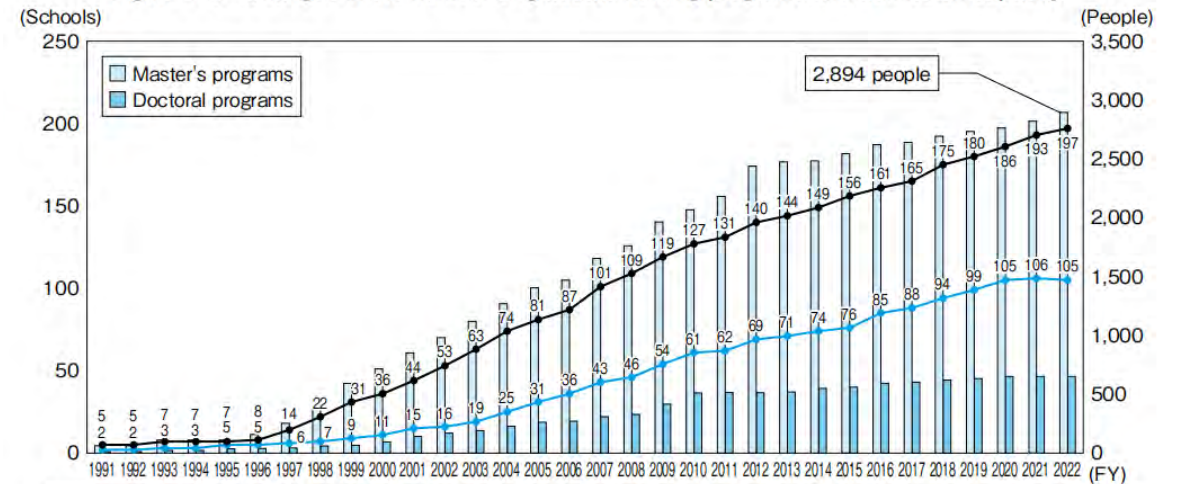
Development of Nursing University Education and Graduate Education (in Japan)

Figure 4-2 Changes in the number of nursing universities/colleges and admission capacity
 Number of nursing programs in 2022: 280 universities/colleges, 296 programs
 (some universities have more than one program in one university)



(Researched by Medical Education Division, Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
 Source : Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Draft budget for nursing in 2023, Reference material of Sub-Committee on Nursing Issues, Health and Labour Sub-Committee (14 February, 2023)

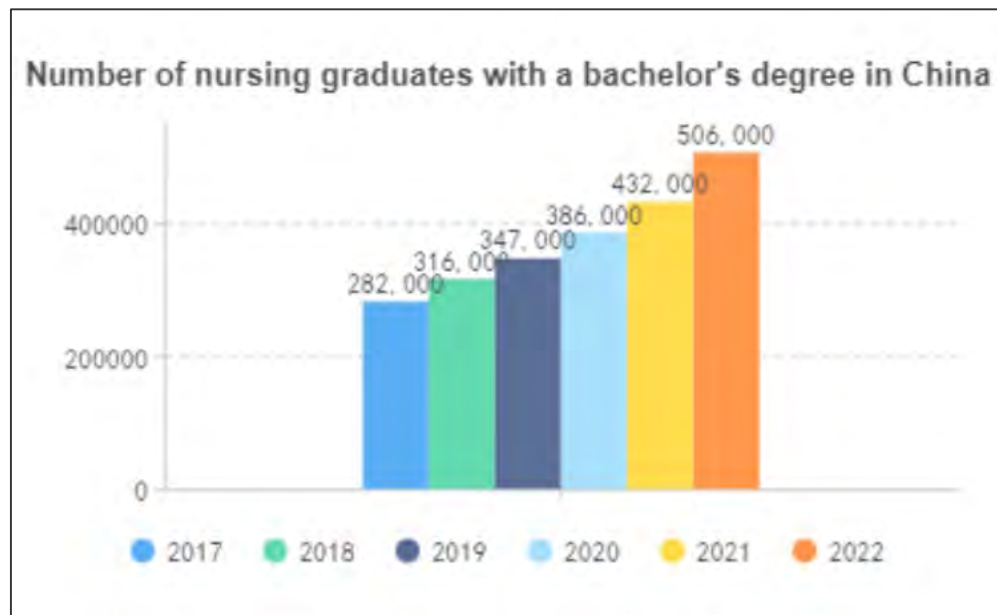
Figure 4-3 Changes in the number of graduate nursing programs and admission capacity



(Researched by Medical Education Division, Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
 Note : Master's programs after 2004 include one professional graduate school (admission capacity of 40 students).
 Source : Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Draft budget for nursing in 2023, Reference material of Sub-Committee on Nursing Issues, Health and Labour Sub-Committee (14 February, 2023)

Development of Nursing University Education and Graduate Education (in China)

- China has **216** baccalaureate programs offering initial nursing education **in 2012** (You et al., 2015).
- China has **261** baccalaureate programs offering initial nursing education **in 2017**.
- China has **306** baccalaureate programs offering initial nursing education **in 2023**.



2010~2019 China Graduate Nursing Education program

year	master		doctorate	
	programs	graduates	programs	graduates
2010	27	130	4	0
2011	52	208	4	0
2012	57	253	7	7
2013	57	277	7	9
2014	57	305	9	18
2015	59	437	11	10
2016	73	675	16	12
2017			28	
2019			30	

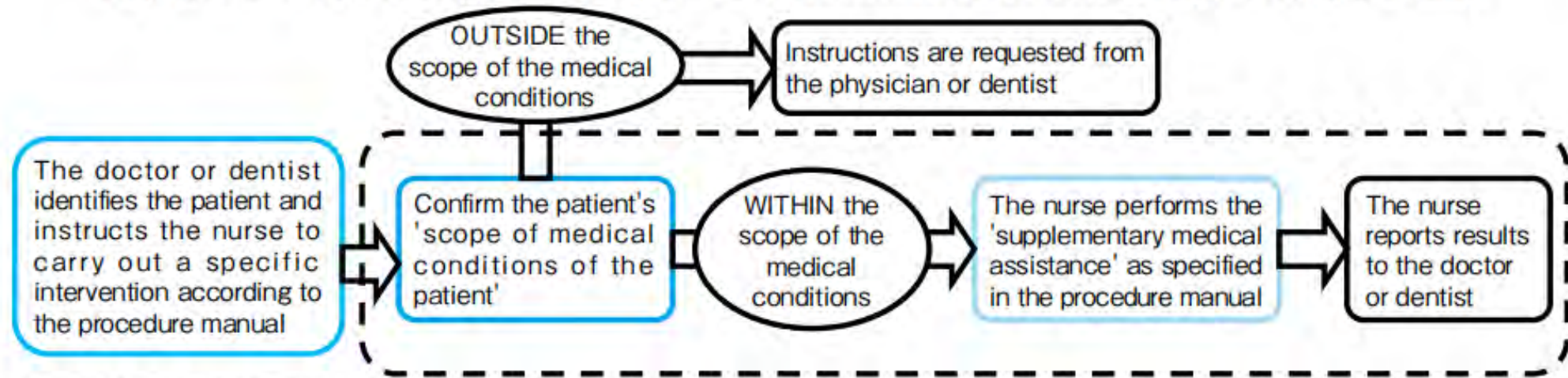
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Current System in Credentials (in Japan)

- Clinical Training for Newly Graduated Nursing Personnel
- Training System for nurses performing specific interventions

Figure 5-2 Flow of supplementary medical treatment in the case of system applicability



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Overview of Training System for Nurses Performing Specific Interventions, <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000070423.html>

Assistance for Improvements in Credentials (in Japan)

- Continuing education
- Establishment of a system supporting lifelong learning
- Training of highly specialized nurses

Table 5-2 Role of credentialed professionals

Certifications	Roles
Certified Nurse Specialist	Play a role in practice, consultation with care providers, coordination between health and social care professionals, ethical coordination, education and research, through excellence in nursing practice.
Certified Nurse	Play a role in high standards of nursing practice, instruction and consultation with the nursing professionals and others with high level of clinical reasoning and judgement of pathological conditions.
Certified Nurse Administrator	Play a role in the development of a creative organization with excellent managerial qualities.

Source: Prepared by the Japanese Nursing Association

Table 5-3 Overview of the credentialing systems

Certifications	Year of inauguration	Year of issuing first certification	Number of fields	Number of programs	Duration of education	Number of certificated personnels* ¹
Certified Nurse Specialist	1994	1996	14	112 Graduate Schools 319 Courses* ²	2 years 38 credits	2,901 (13 fields)
Certified Nurse	1995	1997	21	24 institutions 35 courses	6 months · 600+ hours	20,660 (21 fields)
		2021	19	26 institutions 42 courses	Within 1 year · Around 800 hours	1,495 (19 fields)
Certified Nurse Administrator	1998	1999	—	First: 69 Second: 59 Third: 32	105 hours 180 hours 180 hours	4,468

* 1 : As of April, 2022

* 2 : Accredited by the Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities

* 3 : A Course=Does not Incorporating Training System for nurses performing specific interventions · B Course=Incorporating Training System for nurses performing specific interventions

Source: Prepared by the Japanese Nursing Association

Current System in Credentials (in China)

- Clinical Training for Newly Graduated Nursing Personnel in Western medicine hospital

Items	Contents		Time	Demand
Basic training (basic theoretical knowledge and common clinical nursing operation technology training)	Basic theoretical knowledge	Laws and regulations	2 weeks ~ 1 month	The hospital may make specific arrangements according to the actual situation.
		Code standards		
		Rules and regulations		
		Safety management		
		Nursing documents		
		Communication skills		
		Medical humanities		
	Professional literacy			
Common clinical nursing operation techniques				
Professional training (professional theory and practical ability training)	Internal medicine system	Cardiovascular Department	6 months	Choose 1-2 specialties, each specialty training 3-6 months
		Respiratory Department		
		Gastroenterology Department		
		Hematology Department		
		Nephrology Department		
		Endocrinology Department		
		Rheumatology Department		
		Infection Department		
	Neurology Department			
	Surgical system	General Surgery	6 months	
		Orthopedics, Urology		
		Thoracic Surgery		
		Cardiac Surgery		
		Vascular surgery		
	Neurosurgery			
Emergency Department, intensive care unit		6 months	The hospital may make specific arrangements according to the actual situation.	
Obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, operating rooms, oncology and other departments		6 months	The hospital may make specific arrangements according to the actual situation.	

Current System in Credentials (in China)

- Clinical Training for Newly Graduated Nursing Personnel in Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital

Items	Contents		Time	Demand
Basic training (basic theoretical knowledge and common clinical nursing operation technology training)	Basic theoretical knowledge	Laws and Regulations	1~2 months	The hospital may make specific arrangements according to the actual situation. Among them, the training time of basic Chinese medicine and basic Chinese medicine nursing is not less than 3 weeks.
		Code Standards		
		Traditional Chinese Medicine Basis		
		Basis of Nursing of Traditional Chinese Medicine		
		Rules and Regulations		
		Safety Management		
		Nursing Documents		
		Communication Skills		
		Traditional Chinese Medicine Culture		
	Professional Literacy			
Common clinical nursing operation techniques				
Professional training (professional theory and practical ability training)	Internal medicine system	Cardiovascular Department	6 months	Choose 1-2 specialties, each specialty training 3-6 months.
		Encephalopathy Department		
		Respiratory Department		
		Gastroenterology Department		
		Nephrology Department		
		Endocrinology Department		
		Rheumatology Department		
		Infection Department		
		Oncology Department		
	Surgical system	General Surgery	6 months	Choose 1-2 specialties, each specialty training 3-6 months.
		Orthopedics Department		
		Dermatology Department		
		proctology Department		
		Orthopedics, Urology		
		Thoracic Surgery		
Vascular Surgery				
Neurosurgery				
Emergency Department, intensive care unit		6 months	The hospital may make specific arrangements according to the actual situation.	
Acupuncture Department, Massage Department, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Operating rooms and other departments		6 months	Choose 1-2 specialties, each specialty training 3-6 months.	



Assistance for Improvements in Credentials (in China)

- Continuing education
 - Mandatory continuing nursing education(MCNE) was instituted in 1996 to support healthcare reform, including producing greater equity in health-care.
 - Each nurse is required to complete **25 credits** per year by participating in the program.
- Training of highly specialized nurses
 - to improve the collaboration ability of the care team. Within the healthcare team, specialist nurses work closely with doctors, other nurses and other relevant professionals to provide comprehensive care to patients.

Summary

1. Compared with Japan, nursing education in China started late and developed slowly.
2. The educational contents were set down using the same criteria, regardless of the educational institution type in Japan. But no complete unified criteria in China.
3. In recent years, the university nursing education and graduate nursing education in Japan and China have shown a rapid development trend.
4. Both Japan and China have new nurse training systems, and also provide assistance to continuing education, lifelong education, and specialized education.

Suggestion for Nursing Education Reform in China

1. Improving the criteria of contents and credits of basic nursing education, including secondary and tertiary education.
2. Establishing and developing public health nursing specialty to improve the response capacity in public health services, such as disease prevention, health promotion, infectious disease prevention and control, community care, and response to public health emergencies.