

Bedside-to-Beyond

A Career Transition Worksheet

This worksheet is a diagnostic, not a reflection exercise — it's built to give you a clear-eyed read on where you stand right now: what skills you're sitting on, what you actually need in your next role, which direction fits, and whether you're truly ready to move. Answer honestly. There's no wrong score.

1 Skills Audit

Rate your confidence in each area (1 = still building, 5 = expert-level).

Clinical Skill	1	2	3	4	5
Patient assessment & triage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Time management under pressure	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Crisis / emergency response	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Documentation & charting accuracy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Patient & family education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interdisciplinary communication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Precepting / mentoring others	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Policy & compliance knowledge	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Any skill rated 4 or 5 is a marketable strength outside the bedside — carry that list into Section 3.

2 Values Check

Rank these 1–6 by what matters most in your next role (1 = most important).

Rank	Priority
_____	Autonomy — control over my own schedule and decisions
_____	Pace — steady, predictable workload
_____	Patient contact — staying close to direct care
_____	Income — matching or exceeding bedside pay
_____	Growth — clear path to advance or specialize
_____	Stability — benefits, PTO, employer-backed security

3 Path Matcher

Five directions nurses move toward most often. Check any that align with your top skills and values above — ranges reflect national data and vary by state, employer, and experience.

- ☐ Education & Academia
Nurse educator, clinical instructor, simulation lab coordinator
Education/certification: BSN required; MSN preferred for faculty roles
Typical salary range: \$65,000 – \$95,000

- ☐ Administration & Compliance
Case management, quality improvement, regulatory/compliance consulting
Education/certification: BSN required; CPHQ or LNC certification strengthens candidacy
Typical salary range: \$70,000 – \$105,000

- ☐ Entrepreneurship
Independent consulting, training programs, concierge nursing
Education/certification: Active RN license; business registration; liability coverage
Typical salary range: Highly variable — \$0 to six figures

- ☐ Informatics & Technology
EMR optimization, clinical data analytics, health IT support
Education/certification: RN license; informatics certificate or certification (ANCC) helps
Typical salary range: \$80,000 – \$115,000

- ☐ Advanced Practice
Nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, CRNA
Education/certification: MSN or DNP; national board certification; state licensure
Typical salary range: \$100,000 – \$140,000+

Salary ranges are general national estimates, not guarantees — always verify current figures for your state and employer before making a decision.

Which path(s) am I most drawn to, and why?

4 Readiness Scorecard

Rate each area honestly, 1 (not ready) to 5 (fully ready).

Area	1	2	3	4	5
Financial cushion (3–6 months expenses saved)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Emotional readiness to let go of bedside identity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Skills gap closed for target path	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Resume / LinkedIn updated for new direction	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Support system in place (family, mentor, community)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

My total score: _____ / 25

20–25: You're ready to move — start actively applying and networking.

13–19: You're close — target the lowest-scoring area first, then revisit in 60–90 days.

Below 13: Give yourself more runway — this worksheet is a checkpoint, not a deadline.