

Functions of Professional Nursing Organizations Professional associations are crucial for any profession, providing a platform for shared values, collaboration, and change. In nursing, these organizations play a vital role in advocating for the needs of both nurses and their clients. **International Council of Nurses (ICN)***, the world's largest nursing organization, represents 13 million nurses globally. ICN focuses on unifying nursing worldwide, advancing the profession, and influencing health policy. **American Nurses Association (ANA)***, the only full-service professional organization for RNs in the US, focuses on policy development, organizational partnerships, lobbying, and publishing. **Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI)***, an honor society for nursing, emphasizes learning, knowledge, and professional development for nurses committed to global health. It offers various resources including publications, scholarships, and networking opportunities. **National League for Nursing (NLN)***, established in 1893 as the first nursing organization in the US, focuses on promoting excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse workforce. **Benefits of Professional Organizations:**
 Personal benefits:
 * Socialization and networking
 * Travel opportunities through conferences
 * Scholarships
 Professional benefits:
 * Career advancement
 * Political influence
 * Setting professional standards
 * Credentialing
 * Access to professional journals and expert advice
 * Advocacy
 Criteria of a Profession:
 * Well-defined body of knowledge
 * Service orientation
 * Recognized authority
 * Code of ethics
 * Professional organization
 * Ongoing research
 * Autonomy
 Nursing as a Profession:
 * Nursing standards are based on a code of ethics set by professional organizations.
 * The profession focuses on human responses to health problems, promoting wellness, and utilizing evidence-based practice.
 * Nursing has evolved from a technical service to a person-centered approach that maximizes human potential.
 Other Notable Organizations:
 * Commonwealth Nurses Federation
 * American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
 * International Red Cross
 * UNICEF
 * WHO