

T H E

J O B

C E N T E R

NURSING

SKILLS REQUIRED

Nurses must be detail-oriented, good at math and science, and enjoy working with people. Caring for the ill can be stressful, so nurses should also be compassionate and emotionally strong.

WHERE/HOW TO GET TRAINING

Schooling

Practical nursing programs usually require a high school diploma for admission. After completing a state-approved practical nursing program, an LPN in the United States is required to pass a licensing examination.

Practical nursing programs typically last one year and include classroom study and supervised patient care. Study areas include anatomy, physiology, medical-surgical nursing, pediatrics, obstetrics, psychiatric nursing, administration of drugs, nutrition, and first aid. Clinical practice usually takes place in a hospital or clinic.

LPN nursing programs can be found at vocational schools, community colleges, technical colleges, some high schools, hospitals, and universities.

RNs must graduate from an approved nursing program (usually two to four years) and pass a national nursing license exam. Nurses can be licensed in more

than one state. All states require periodic license renewal, which may involve continuing education.

RNs can earn an associate degree (ADN), bachelor of science degree (BSN), or nursing diploma. ADN programs are usually offered by community and technical colleges and take two to three years to complete. BSN programs take four or five years to complete at colleges and universities.

Financial Aid

Grants, scholarships, loans, and work/study programs are available for students. For most of this aid, high school seniors must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, available from high school guidance offices and postsecondary financial aid offices.

For more information on federal financial aid programs, visit the U.S. Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.ed.gov>.



For more information on federal financial aid programs, call (800) 4FE-DAID

FUTURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

With more than 2 million jobs, nursing is the nation's largest health care field. In 2000, the U.S. Department of Labor includes nursing as one of the top

10 occupations projected to provide the most new jobs in the coming decade. Some regions of the country currently report nursing shortages.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Nurses traditionally work in hospitals, physician's offices, nursing homes, medical clinics, schools, community centers, and

private residences. Some nurses work with infectious diseases or with equipment utilizing harmful radioactive ways or gases.

RESOURCES - HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

BOOK:

Kaplan Careers in Nursing: Manage Your Future in the Changing World of Healthcare by Annette Vallano

GENERAL:

National League for Nursing
61 Broadway
New York, NY 10006
web site: www.nln.org

ONLINE:

www.nursingworld.org
(American Nurses Association)

YOU HAVE THE POWER

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Emergency Department - Medical Staff's Nursing Unit of the Year in 2005, pictured with, Philip Tally, Chief of Staff, Chris Malloy, Chief Nursing Officer, and Brian Flynn, CEO of Manatee Memorial Hospital.

Nursing is the largest health-care occupation in the United States. Nurses treat and care for the sick, injured, disabled, and convalescent in a variety of settings. They also work to promote healthy lifestyles and behaviors in their communities.

Nurses are commonly found in hospitals, clinics, physician's offices, nursing homes, specialized treatment centers, and private residences. Their duties vary widely, from giving alcohol rubs to bed-ridden patients to assisting surgeons during major operations.

Although state laws regulate what nurses can and cannot do, work settings usually dictate a nurse's duties.

Typically, nurses observe, assess, and record patient symptoms, reactions, and their day-to-day progress. They administer medications and assist physicians during treatments and exams. Nurses, who create and manage nursing care plans, also supervise nursing aides.

Registered nurses (RNs) are required to graduate from an approved nursing program and pass a national nursing license exam. Registered nursing programs range from a two-year associate's degree to a four- or five-year bachelor's degree. Later in their careers, many registered

nurses return to school to pursue advanced degrees, which will enable them to specialize or to work as administrators.

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) must train for one year in a state-approved practical nursing program before taking a mandatory state licensing exam. Unlike RNs, LPNs typically work under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. Most of their duties involve routine bedside care. LPNs collect samples for testing, and they take and record body temperatures, blood pressure, and pulse and respiration rates. They give injections, apply bandages, give alcohol rubs and massages, and monitor catheters. They help patients bathe and dress and care for their emotional needs.

Registered nurses differ from LPNs in that their education is more extensive and theory-based, allowing them to make unsupervised professional judgments regarding the status of a patient's health. RNs also perform duties that LPNs cannot, such as starting intravenous fluids.

Overall, nurses' earnings are above average compared to many occupations, especially for advanced-practice nurses who have additional education or training.

Manatee Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department: 2005 Nursing Unit of the Year

Manatee Memorial's Emergency Department is an integral part of our thriving community, providing emergency care to over 60,000 patients annually. On any given day, our ED staff members may care for patients experiencing life-threatening illness such as strokes, heart attacks and acute respiratory failure as well as more common medical conditions such as bone fractures, infections, cuts and sprains.

Pictured above is Manatee Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department members. They were recognized by the medical staff as the Nursing Unit of the Year in 2005. This award is based on physician's perception of the nurse's competency, skills and interpersonal relationships.

Nurses in the Emergency Department are able to care for the broad range of patients from newborns to the very elderly and across the continuum from primary care to critical care. This requires extensive post graduate education including critical care training, advanced cardiac life support, pediatric life support and a clinical preceptorship. Ongoing continuing education is a key component of ED Nurse and Physician practice. Our nurses are talented and committed and we are

proud of them!

Our ED physicians are board certified or board eligible in Emergency Medicine and work collaboratively with all team members to provide outstanding emergency care. We are proud of our close relationships with law enforcement, the fire department and prehospital care providers such as with Manatee County EMS. We have established partnerships with community providers such as Manatee Glens and Manatee Rural Health. All are valued and essential to our success.

Managing patient flow in a high volume, high acuity emergency department is challenging at best. ED overcrowding is widely reported in the news as a national problem, especially in urban communities and during peak seasons.

Hospital-wide support has been instrumental as we have implemented many process improvement initiatives to improve flow and reduce the time to be evaluated and treated. Patient and family satisfaction with care is paramount to our mission and we look for opportunities to exceed our customers' expectations.

JOBS IN THIS FIELD

Job titles	Place of work	Kind of work	Average salary*
Registered nurse	Hospital, physician's office, clinic, nursing home, school	Cares for patients; supervises LPNs and nursing assistants.	\$30,000-\$60,000
Licensed practical nurse	Hospital, physician's office, clinic, nursing home, school, business, private residence	Cares for patients.	\$20,000-\$40,000

*Salaries vary depending on region and experience. Sources: Chronicle Guidance Publications and Occupational Outlook Handbook.