



HEALTHCARE CAREER BUZZ



Why Choose Nursing As a Career?

[By Gitanjali Hazarika]

Can a career that traces its roots to the illustrious lady with the lamp, Florence Nightingale, or Linda Richards, America's first-trained nurse, ever lose its touch of life? If doctors treat patients of their maladies, then nurses infuse life back into their souls.

Nurses are vital members within the healthcare team and will always stand by their patients in all circumstances. A nursing job offers ample opportunities to serve people in suitable settings. Nurses can enroll as professional nurses at some major medical centers or at community hospitals in healthcare divisions such as the emergency department, pediatric, or intensive care units. Be it in long-term or short-term care facilities, nurses will find themselves useful in the rehabilitation centers of clinics and schools.

What Does Nursing Involve?

Though nurses may offer their invaluable services in multiple areas, they are all bound under one oath — the promise to care for ones in need.

Depending upon the nature of work they choose, nurses' duties and responsibilities keep changing. Apart from the basic technical nursing skills, there are other basic fivefold problem-solving duties. These include diagnosing the cause and tracing the path of illness, strategizing moves according to care-specific goals, executing the plan-of-action along with actual treatment, and lastly, evaluating not only the effect of their care, but also of their strategies.

Is Nursing a Tough Job?

If you think that Florence's job was a cakewalk, think again. But all jobs demand

sincerity and dedication. Nursing is no different. Nursing requires the individual to possess a few inherent qualities to emerge from the crowd as a star. These qualities include an analytical mind that can think critically, an ability to behave warmly with people, technical know-how, and a curiosity to discover the latest happenings in the world of healthcare and medicines. This will help the individual keep him or herself up-to-date on the latest buzz in related fields of interest like health promotions and illness management concepts. A nurse's duty does not end with the patient— it transcends realms to embrace even the family of the client and the community, too.

Career Opportunities for the Caregivers

Nursing is the fastest growing and most respected profession in the whole world, as well as the most honest and ethical of all professions. To get a certification or associate's degree as licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.) or registered nurse (R.N.), students have to study one to two years at nursing schools.

Career prospects in the job market for professionally educated nurses are high and job opportunities are plentiful. Annual salaries for recent graduates from graduate school nursing programs can start around \$60,000, while more experienced nurses can expect around \$74,000 per year. With the

growing demand for RNs, many healthcare units such as private hospitals also wheedle in a few extra benefits, in addition to the excellent working environs and good salaries, to lure in and retain good hands. These incentives include flexible hours, bonuses, and training programs. In addition to these, one major not-on-the-list bonus is returning home each day after work with the knowledge that their services have made tremendous impacts on someone's life.

Experts predict jobs for more than 800,000 full-time nurses in the U.S. in another 15 years, opportunities abroad notwithstanding! And you thought that nursing entails only checking the thermometer, adjusting tubes, administering medication, and pushing the needle in? Think again.

ON THE NET

Profession or Trade?
www.nurseweek.com/ednote/00/100900.html

The Nursing Profession
www.pcc.edu/programs/nursing/profession.htm

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