



## What do Nurses do?

Nurses are on the front line of health care every day. They provide care to vulnerable populations including the physically and mentally ill, children, adults and the elderly.

### Registered Nurses (RN):

- Provide oversight of health care,
- Assess patients and analyze data,
- Execute medical regimens ordered by licensed practitioners such as physicians and nurse practitioners,
- Formulate plans to meet patients' needs and ensure the plans are put in to action,
- Evaluate how plans have worked and ensure care is documented and quality is maintained,
- Educate patients, families and communities about health promotion and disease prevention, and
- Supervise care delivered by other health care team members.

### Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN):

- Provide care under the direction of a Registered Nurse (RN), licensed physician or licensed dentist,
- Provide care that does not require the specialized knowledge of a RN, including, but not limited to: assistance with activities of daily living, administration of medications, including IV therapy, and various other technical skills,
- Evaluate the residents' needs, contribute to their plan of care and supervise the care provided by nursing assistants,
- Assist RNs and doctors,
- Help individuals with activities of daily living such as eating, dressing and mobility,
- Obtain data such as temperature, blood pressure and blood sugar level, and
- Administer medication.

## Where do Nurses work?

Most Nurses work in hospitals, continuing care facilities or the community. Nurses are also needed in schools and in private industry, particularly the pharmaceutical and insurance industries. This career offers flexible schedules, competitive salaries and benefits. Nursing is a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week profession.

## How can I become a Nurse? After high school...

LPNs must complete a one-year program offered at career and technical centers or community colleges, and pass the National Council Licensure Exam - Practical Nursing (NCLEX PN).

RNs have several choices, as follows:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) — A four-year program offered at colleges and universities
- Diploma in Nursing (DN) — A two-to-three year program offered in hospitals that offer college credits toward an ADN or BSN
- Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) — A two-year program offered at junior and community colleges; credits can be used toward a BSN
- RNs must pass the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX)

## Is this the career for me?

RNs need to be critical thinkers, culturally sensitive, technologically efficient, decision-makers and compassionate individuals.

LPNs need to be hands-on, culturally sensitive and compassionate individuals.

Both must demonstrate academic aptitude and an ability to communicate. Recommended high school courses include Health, Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.

## How much money do Nurses make?

	Average Annual Salary
Registered Nurses	\$54,040
Licensed Practical Nurses	\$37,990

## Will I be able to get a job in Pennsylvania?

There are an average of 3,114 annual openings for RNs and 1,462 for LPNs in Pennsylvania.

*Where do I go for more information?*

**[www.pahealthcareers.org](http://www.pahealthcareers.org)**

**Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers**

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