

Become an LPN, the fast path to a nursing career.

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By Max Stein

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Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Careers

Licensed Practical Nurses provide the most amount of direct patient care within the nursing category of healthcare. If you're interested in a healthcare career dealing directly with patients, becoming an LPN is a rewarding opportunity.

LPN Job Description

LPNs provide a large portion of direct patient care. LPNs may be assisted by nurses' aides (CNAs) and other assistants in some of their duties. LPNs are directed by doctors and nurses (RNs & nurse managers). Typically, a LPN's work duties include:

- Taking vital signs
- Preparing and administering injections and enemas
- Applying dressings and bandages
- Watching catheters
- Treating bedsores
- Providing alcohol massages or rubs
- Monitoring patients and reporting changes
- Collecting samples for testing
- Provide patient hygiene
- Feeding patients
- Monitoring food and liquid input/output

LPNs work in a variety of settings like hospitals, outpatient facilities, long term care facilities, clinics and home care. Tenured LPNs may supervise nursing aides and assistants.

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Salary Ranges

While nursing jobs in general are in high demand nationwide, LPN positions in hospitals are declining. However, since this has been caused by an increase in outpatient services, LPN positions in long term care facilities and home health is in as much demand as other nursing categories.

The U.S. Department of Labor has published the median income for LPNs as \$31,440 in 2002. The range was \$22,860 to \$44,040 based on geographic location and work experience. Contract LPNs made the most money, while doctor's office nurses made the least on average at \$28,710.

A nursing career offers other benefits including a flexible schedule, a short work week (three 12 hour shifts with four days off), tuition reimbursement and signing bonuses.

Education / Getting Started

Because of the high level of patient responsibility, nursing is highly regulated, requiring both education and a license. Graduates must complete a state approved practical nursing program and pass a licensing examination. An LPN certificate can be completed in less than a year. Some RN students become LPNs after completing their first year of study. Course work in the LPN program includes anatomy, physiology, nutrition, biology, chemistry, obstetrics, pediatrics, first aid as well as nursing classes.

Becoming an LPN is the fastest path to a nursing career. Advancement can take many forms, but additional education is usually required.

If you possess the traits necessary to become a successful nurse and want to secure a well paying, important profession caring for others, getting an LPN degree in nursing is a great way to secure your professional future.

Max Stein is a freelance writer who writes about business, education and marketing.

Earning An Online Nursing Degree

By Jenny F Carter

During the 1970's, many colleges and universities in the United States were actually encouraging people to go into a different field other than nursing in that there were no jobs. Today, that is hard to believe as we see the number of nurses needed to fill all the open positions staggering. Nursing jobs are now in abundance with a huge shortage of qualified nurses. The good news is that nursing is one of the strongest career choices a person could make, for both men and women, offering an exciting, self-gratifying, and diverse career.

If you are interested in obtaining your nursing degree but work full-time, have small children at home, or simply feel there is no time to attend school, you might consider earning an online nursing degree.

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With many excellent programs now available, you could choose the field of interest, along with the level of certification for what you want to achieve. The following are some options when it comes to an online nursing degree that you might consider.

Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN)

This nursing certificate is actually a pre–entry level where you would work for a licensed or registered nurse, or in some cases, a doctor.

Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)

This entry–level position performs routine care under the supervision of a registered nurse or doctor.

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

This nurse has just enough training to be state licensed and is qualified to provide routine care to patients.

Registered Nurse (RN)

For this nursing position, formal education is required with an Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree.

Advanced Practice Nurse

Again, formal education in the form of a Master's Degree is required with a specialty certification such as Nurse Practitioner (NP), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), or Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM).

Master's Prepared Nurse (MSN)

For this nursing degree, you would need one or more years of education through a state or private university. As imagined, this degree provides skill in advanced care and qualification to teach.

Doctoral Prepared Nurse (PhD or DNS)

Finally, a nursing degree of this caliber requires three plus years at a doctoral granting institution. In addition to patient care, this nursing program teaches research, theory, and practicing education skills.

The possibilities for online nursing are incredible. With this, you can take classes at home and at the pace which you are comfortable. Just imagine being able to complete your nursing degree via computer while still being able to work and/or care for smaller children. Just remember to take classes through an accredited college or university, one with great teacher–student communication, and a school that focuses on the area of medicine you are most interested.

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Jenny F Carter contributes to the website

which is a real gem for

researching absolutely anything related to the nursing profession. If you are search for nursing related material then chek

first.

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