

TALKING POINTS

Nurses Change Lives! Be a nurse

Nurses have the opportunity to do "good" in the world everyday.

Many exciting and rewarding opportunities exist in nursing.

Nurses earn good competitive salaries.

Nurses are essential for our healthcare system.

Caring for the sick is only one aspect of what a nurse does.

Today's nurses work to:

- Promote health
- Prevent disease
- Help patients and their families cope with illness, emergencies and long-term disease
- Save lives
- Make healthier communities
- Nurses relate to people of all backgrounds and cultures. They act as advocates and health educators for patients, families, and communities

Nursing, it's not just a job, it's a profession!

A profession is any job where you need specialized knowledge and training. **Nursing combines science and technology with people skills** like: communication, problem solving, teaching, and compassion.

As a nurse, you will touch people's lives at a time when they need help.

There are different types of nurses....

Registered nurses attend a nursing school at a community college, **a four-year college or a diploma school**. RNs work in a variety of settings with people who are well as well as those who are sick. RN's are educated to care for people with a great deal of **independence**. **However** most RNs work as a part of an interdisciplinary team with doctors, other nurses, **pharmacists**, physical therapists and social workers.

How long does it take to become a registered nurse?

There is more than one way to become a nurse. There are two-year programs at community colleges, diploma schools and four-year programs at state schools. Most of these programs require certain classes **in high school and** college. In order to enter the program (called pre-requisites), if you don't have them already, you'll have to take them first. A **high school or** college counselor can help you plan your schedule.

Licensed Practical Nurses are educated in a high school, community college or independent school. LPN education takes 12 to 18 months in high schools or community colleges. LPN's work in doctor's offices, nursing homes, hospitals and many other health care settings. They work as part of teams and are supervised by RNs or MDs.

Certified Nursing Assistants are educated in short –term programs of less than 6 months. Many **programs** are offered through long-term care facilities, hospitals, high schools and community colleges.

Getting ready for nursing school....

High school students can get a jump-start on college by taking:

- English – all four units
- Math – Algebra I and II Geometry or higher- level course
- Science – Biology, Physics and Chemistry
- Social Studies – at least two units
- Foreign Language –at least two units
- Computer Science –at least two units

Why Go to College?

A nursing education could mean the difference between a minimum-wage job and a career that pays well and has lots of opportunities. On average, a person who goes to college earns 25% more than a person who does not.

The more education you have, the more jobs you'll have to choose from.

In college you'll gain knowledge and skills that you will use for the rest of your life.

College puts you in a better position to help your family and your community.

The time to start to think about college is now. The more time you give yourself to plan for college, the better. The effort you put in to planning will definitely pay off. We suggest you start by ninth or tenth grade or even sooner.

Nurses have unlimited opportunities

Many exciting and rewarding opportunities exist in nursing.

Nurses can make choices about where they work and the types of patients they care for.

Nurses have choices beyond hospital nursing. Clinics, surgery centers, schools, large companies, colleges, and rehabilitation centers are just some of the areas where nurses work.

Nurses are **also**:

- Educators
- Managers
- Executives
- Entrepreneurs
- Lawyers
- Government officials

Nurses can also work with the police in forensics departments, on movie sets, as flight nurses in the military, and as expert witnesses. When it comes to finding a challenging career as a nurse, the possibilities are endless.

The choices are endless.....

The variety of opportunities for nurses is endless. A nurse can earn a competitive salary and work anywhere in the world.

Nursing Pays:

Nursing is one of the most respected professions in the world. Nursing is expected to grow faster than all other occupations.

In other words, there will always be jobs for nurses.

Nursing is also fun - Make friends

Nursing is a lot of fun. Being able to get along with people and good communication skills are important qualities for life. Most nurses will tell you that they have made life-long friends while working as a nurse. That's because nurses work as a team. They help each other and they teach one another new skills. There are abundant opportunities to meet wonderful people who want to make a difference in the world. So, is nursing for you?