

A CAREER IN REGISTERED NURSING ...The Opportunity to Make a Difference

A resource for middle school students

There are 2.9 million registered nurses in the nation making Nursing the largest healthcare profession. Nursing is called upon to help provide services for a variety of reasons:

- Advances in healthcare technology often require highly specialized nurses to care for patients
- More people are learning about health promotion (healthy habits to prevent illness) that requires the assistance of nurses
- People are living longer requiring health services for a longer time

Nursing is a career with unlimited opportunities -- ranging from caring for the very old to the newborn; in settings with high technology like hospital critical care units, and in settings that provide outpatient services like clinics.

Nurses care for patients 24 hours a day and carry out a plan of care for each patient. Nurses:

- Consult with physicians and other healthcare team members
- Perform a variety of complicated skills like: changing dressings, giving medications, and working with complex monitors and equipment
- Teach patients and families about their health condition
- Provide emotional support to patients and families

Nursing offers over 50 different specialties and a variety of settings in which to work:

HOSPITAL SETTINGS:	NON-HOSPITAL SETTINGS:	
Critical Care Emergency Maternal/Child Care Medical: Cardiology, Diabetes, Gastroenterology, Gerontology, Nephrology, Neurology, Oncology, Pulmonary, Rehabilitation, Renal, Rheumatology, Urology Operating Room/Recovery Room Pediatrics Psychiatric/Mental Health Surgical: Burn, Cardiovascular, Gastroenterology, Orthopedics, Otorhinolaryngology (Ear/Nose/Throat), Plastic/Reconstructive, Transplant	Public/Community Health Mental Health Agencies Home Healthcare Physician's Office Occupational Health Extended Care Facilities Clinics/Health Centers Outpatient Surgery Centers Community Schools, Day Care Centers Independent Practice, Consultants Schools of Nursing Senior Centers, Shelters, Churches	Insurance Research Centers Hospices Military Branches

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

COURSES	DESCRIPTION	YEARS
English	Verbal and written communication skills essential	4
Math	Algebra necessary for success in chemistry and medication administration; Geometry	2-4
Science	Biology and Chemistry essential; Physics recommended; Computer Science	2-4
Social Studies	Psychology; Sociology; History; Government; Economics are all recommended	3-4
Foreign Language	Highly recommended	2



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