

# Career Profile

A weekly series devoted to providing information on career exploration

## Do You Like

- Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, and asking questions as appropriate?
- Talking to others to convey information effectively?
- Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems?
- Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems?
- Actively looking for ways to help people?

*Then This Could Be The Career For You!*

## The Type of Work

- Monitor, record and report symptoms and changes in patients' conditions.
- Maintain accurate, detailed reports and records.
- Record patients' medical information and vital signs.
- Order, interpret, and evaluate diagnostic tests to identify and assess patient's condition.
- Modify patient treatment plans as indicated by patients' responses and conditions.
- Direct and supervise less skilled nursing or health care personnel or supervise a particular unit.
- Consult and coordinate with health care team members to assess, plan, implement and evaluate patient care plans.
- Monitor all aspects of patient care, including diet and physical activity.
- Instruct individuals, families and other groups on topics such as health education, disease prevention and childbirth, and develop health improvement programs.
- Prepare patients for, and assist with, examinations and treatments.

## Pathways to Success

There are three typical educational paths to registered nursing—a bachelor's of science degree in nursing (BSN), an associate degree in nursing (ADN), and a diploma. BSN programs, offered by colleges and universities, take about 4 years to complete. ADN programs, offered by community and junior colleges, take about 2 to 3 years to complete. Diploma programs, administered in hospitals, last about 3 years. Generally, licensed graduates of any of the three types of educational programs qualify for entry-level positions as a staff nurse.

Individuals considering a career in nursing should carefully weigh the advantages and disadvantages of enrolling in each type of education program. Advancement opportunities may be more limited for ADN and diploma holders compared to RNs who obtain a BSN or higher. Individuals who complete a bachelor's degree receive more training in areas such as communication, leadership, and critical thinking, all of which are becoming more important as nursing practice becomes more complex. Additionally, bachelor's degree programs offer more clinical experience in nonhospital settings. A bachelor's or higher degree is often necessary for administrative positions, research, consulting, and teaching.

## What Employers Look For

### Individuals who have knowledge of:

- Medicine - information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures.
- Customer and Personal Service - principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
- Psychology - human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.
- Education and Training - principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.
- Therapy and Counseling - principles, methods, and procedures for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical and mental dysfunctions, and for career counseling and guidance.
- Biology - plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment.
- Sociology and Anthropology - group behavior and dynamics, societal trends and influences, human migrations, ethnicity, cultures and their history and origins.
- Mathematics - arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.
- English Language - structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- Public Safety and Security - relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national security operations for the protection of people, data, property, and institutions.

## Job Outlook

As the largest healthcare occupation, registered nurses held about 2.6 million jobs in 2008. Hospitals employed the majority of RNs, with 60 percent of such jobs. About 8 percent of jobs were in offices of physicians, 5 percent in home healthcare services, 5 percent in nursing care facilities, and 3 percent in employment services. The remainder worked mostly in government agencies, social assistance agencies, and educational services.

Overall job opportunities for registered nurses are expected to be excellent, but may vary by employment and geographic setting. Some employers report difficulty in attracting and retaining an adequate number of RNs. Employment of RNs is expected to grow much faster than the average and, because the occupation is very large, 581,500 new jobs will result, among the largest number of new jobs for any occupation. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of job openings will result from the need to replace experienced nurses who leave the occupation.

# REGISTERED NURSE



### DEFINITION:

Registered nurses (RNs), regardless of specialty or work setting, treat patients, educate patients and the public about various medical conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients' family members. RNs record patients' medical histories and symptoms, help perform diagnostic tests and analyze results, operate medical machinery, administer treatment and medications, and help with patient follow-up and rehabilitation.

**NAME:** Linda Wolfe

**JOB TITLE:** RN-BC

**COMPANY:** EMH Center For Health And Fitness

**LOCATION:** Avon, Oh

### Q. How did you become interested in your particular field?

**A.** I can remember wanting to be a nurse since I was a little girl. I have always enjoyed helping others and making them feel better. Most of my career, I worked in critical care which can be very demanding and focused on completing various tasks for very ill patients. Cardiac Rehabilitation is such a nice change of pace. The patients are recovering from a cardiac event and want and need to make lifestyle changes. We guide our patients through a monitored exercise and educational program to get them back to their greatest potential. Our program was the first cardiac rehab program to be certified by AACVPR (American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation) in Lorain County.

### Q. Who or what influenced your decision the most and why?

**A.** My parents always encouraged me to get an education and pursue my goal of becoming a nurse. Growing up, one of my aunts was also a nurse and I admired her knowledge, skills, and kindness.

### Q. What is your educational background?

**A.** I graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I am certified in Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support. I recently became Board Certified in Cardio-Vascular Nursing.

### Q. How did you get to where you are today? What path did your employment journey take?

**A.** After graduating from Kent State, I worked in critical care for 21 years. A friend of mine was working in cardiac rehab and told me about an opening and thought I would be a good fit.

### Q. What skills or certifications do you think are needed to be successful in this field?

**A.** Communication and a positive attitude are probably the biggest skills you need to succeed in cardiac rehab. You are teaching everyday and you need to be able to get your point across to people who are in various stages of learning. Being positive and upbeat encourages and helps your patients to do their best.

### Q. What is the best part of your job?

**A.** The best part of my job is the patient-nurse interaction. We see our clients three days a week and really get to know them. It is so satisfying being able to see the changes and improvements over a course of time. Another asset to my job is working closely with dedicated colleagues. Since there are only two of us working together at any one time, we depend on and trust in each other. We are always looking for ways to improve our program and honestly, we have a lot of fun doing it.

### Q. Do you have any words of advice for someone considering a career in your field?

**A.** Nursing is a great career because there are so many different paths you can choose. There are constant changes in the medical field so keep your skills and education up to date.



RN Linda Wolfe monitors Dave Bartrum as he uses an exercise bike at EMH Center for Health and Fitness.

## Earnings Potential

Location	Year	Pay Period	Low	Median	High
United States	2009	Yearly	\$44,000	\$63,800	\$93,700
Ohio	2009	Yearly	\$43,700	\$58,200	\$78,000
Cleveland Elyria-Mentor, OH MSA	2009	Yearly	\$49,200	\$60,300	\$78,100

O\*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>.

Wage figures are also influenced by skills, experience and industry.

Sources: Occupational Information Network, O\*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>; \*U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://stats.bls.gov/oco>