

For the next several weeks, we are focusing on careers in Healthcare.

Combining medical technology and the human touch, the healthcare industry diagnoses, treats, and administers care around the clock, responding to the needs of millions of people—from newborns to the terminally ill.



# Careers in Healthcare

## The type of work

- Monitor, record, and report symptoms or 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 or supervise less-skilled nursing or healthcare personnel or supervise a particular unit.
- Consult and coordinate with healthcare team members to assess, plan, implement, or evaluate patient care plans.
- Monitor all aspects of patient care, including diet and physical activity.
- Instruct individuals, families, or other groups on topics such as health education, disease prevention, or childbirth and develop health improvement programs.
- Prepare patients for and assist with examinations or treatments.

## Quick Facts



As one of the largest industries in 2008, healthcare provided 14.3 million jobs for wage and salary workers. Ten of the 20 fastest growing occupations are healthcare related. Healthcare will generate 3.2 million new wage and salary jobs between 2008 and 2018, more than any other industry, largely in response to rapid growth in the elderly population. A wide variety of people with various educational backgrounds are necessary for the healthcare industry to function. The healthcare industry employs some highly educated occupations that often require many years of training beyond graduate school. However, most of the occupations in the healthcare industry require less than four years of college.



## Registered Nurse

**Uland Ralston**  
Nurse Aide/LCCC Nursing Program Student  
Mercy Hospital, Lorain, OH

**Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. May advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. Licensing or registration required.**

**Q** How did you become interested in your particular field?

**A** During the Early College Program, I researched multiple different career opportunities and realized I wanted to pursue a career in the medical field. I liked how hands on nurses were with their patients and other details about the nursing careers. Also being on LCCC's campus, I was able to learn about their program and see how successful it has been. I definitely wanted to be a part of that.

**Q** How did you get to where you are today?

**A** My family has helped and supported me greatly. They've always pushed me to do well in school and to pursue the career I wanted to do. The Early College Program also helped me tremendously. It allowed me to further my education while still in high school. For the past year I have been working as a Nurse's Aide at Mercy Hospital in Lorain on the Rehabilitation floor. The experience I am gaining from this job and the nurses I work with have also helped me to perform well in school.

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

**A** You definitely need to have good people skills. Patients are usually distressed over their situation so you want to make them as comfortable as possible. Also you need to be willing to work hard and be flexible because things in the nursing field and on the job are constantly changing. Being able to adjust is a necessity. Since I am in school for my Associate Degree of Nursing, in order for me to reach my goal and become a Registered Nurse, I have to both earn the degree and pass the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX RN) test.

**Q** What is the best part of your job?

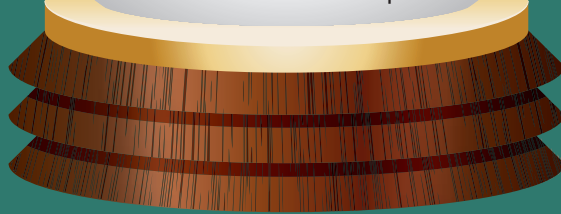
**A** Being able to work in the field I'm going to school for. I'm able to learn how a hospital is run and also what I will be doing one day as a nurse. The nurses I work with are aware that I am in school and are very helpful and supportive. They allow me to observe them and assist with different tasks. They have even given me tips to help me in school. It is helping me to become more comfortable working in a hospital setting and with patients.

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

**A** Not to become intimidated by what you may read or what others may say. It's a great field and if it's something you're interested in, it's definitely worth going for.

## THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

As the largest healthcare occupation, registered nurses held about 2.6 million jobs in 2008, with approximately 120,000 in Ohio. 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.



## EARNINGS POTENTIAL

Annual Earnings Potential (2010)

	Low	Median	High
United States.....	\$44,200.....	\$64,700.....	\$95,100
Ohio.....	\$44,400.....	\$58,700.....	\$78,400
Cleve/Elyria/Mentor			
OH MSA.....	\$49,900.....	\$61,200.....	\$78,300

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

## Pathways to success:

The three typical educational paths to registered nursing are a bachelor's of science degree in nursing (BSN), an associate degree in nursing (ADN), and a diploma from an approved nursing program. Nurses most commonly enter the occupation by completing an associate degree or bachelor's degree program. Individuals then must complete a national licensing examination in order to obtain a nursing license. Advanced practice nurses—clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, nurse-midwives, and nurse practitioners—need a master's degree.

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 in individuals:

- Medicine and Dentistry - 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Mathematics - arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.
- Sociology and Anthropology - group behavior and dynamics, societal trends and influences, human migrations, ethnicity, cultures and their history and origins.
- 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.

## Sponsors



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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>