

# LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE

## { JOB DESCRIPTION }

Care for ill, injured, convalescent, and handicapped persons in hospitals, clinics, private homes, mental health facilities, and similar institutions. Dress wounds and give enemas; take and record temperature, pulse, blood pressure, and respiration; assemble and use such equipment as catheters, tracheotomy tubes, and oxygen suppliers. Sterilize equipment and supplies.

## { SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED }

- A caring, sympathetic nature
- Emotionally stable to handle stress
- Able to follow orders and work under close supervision

Licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) care for the sick, injured, convalescent, and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. They prepare and give injections, apply ice packs and hot water bottles, and insert catheters. They collect samples from patients for testing, perform routine laboratory tests, feed patients, and record food and liquid intake and output. They help patients with bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene.

Most nurses in hospitals and nursing homes work a 40-hour week, but because patients need round-the-clock care, some work nights, weekends, and holidays. They often stand for long periods and help patients move in bed, stand, or walk. LVNs may face hazards from caustic chemicals, radiation, and infectious diseases such as hepatitis. They are subject to back injuries when moving patients and shock from electrical equipment. They often must deal with the stress of heavy workloads and the patients they care for may be confused, irrational, agitated, or uncooperative.

### { SOUTH PLAINS }

Avg. Wage  
**\$13.90**

Avg. Annual  
Job Openings  
**60**

Employment in  
1998 2008  
**1,460 1,700**

### { TEXAS }

Avg. Wage  
**\$14.38**

Avg. Annual  
Job Openings  
**2,595**

Employment in  
1998 2008  
**59,580 70,210**

### { U.S. EMPLOYMENT }

In 1998  
**699,600**

Female **92%**  
Minority **44%**

## HEALTH SERVICES CAREERS



### { PREFERRED EDUCATION }

- Completion of State-accredited school of vocational nursing program

### { LICENSE / CERTIFICATION }

- Must pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) using Computer Adaptive Testing—proof of continuing education is required for licensure renewal

### { REGIONAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS }

- **SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE**-Certificate of Proficiency, Vocational Nursing

### { JOB SITES }

Hospitals	46%
Nursing and Personal Care	23%
Home Health Care Services	7%
Offices/Clinics, Doctors	6%

### { FOR MORE INFORMATION }

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PRACTICAL NURSE EDUCATION AND SERVICE, INC.

1400 Spring St., Suite 330, Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 588-2839

[www.aoa.dhhs.gov/aoa/dir/130.html](http://www.aoa.dhhs.gov/aoa/dir/130.html)

NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR NURSING

61 Broadway, New York, NY 10006  
(800) 669-1656, [www.nln.org](http://www.nln.org)

TEXAS BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSE EXAMINERS

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