

Career Research Paper

1. Describe the career. What are the typical job duties?

I have chosen a Registered Nurse as the career to conduct my research on. I am interested in becoming a Registered nurse or RN. During my research I found that there are many fields you can work in when you become an RN. For example, as an RN you can be employed in hospitals, clinics, schools, prisons, major corporations, insurance companies, hospice, and home care. RNs help patients with various stages of life from pre-birth, birth, pediatric, adult, geriatric, and post mortem. The typical job duties for an RN are to keep detailed patient records and reports. They take vital signs of the patient, obtain background information, assess the patient's health status, and keep patient rooms maintained and stocked with supplies. RNs must communicate with doctors, fellow RN staff, and family members. They are responsible for implementing patient care ranging from pain management, administering medication, patient's food and nutrition, and coordinating various therapy and treatment plans.

2. What are your personality strengths that match this career?

I have many personality strengths that match this career. I am good at communicating with people in a one-on-one basis. I am a good listener and good at making people feel at ease. I enjoy helping other people and caring for them. Being around people who are bleeding or vomiting doesn't make me squeamish like it does to some people. Being a mother has helped me immensely in that regard. I am good at dealing with and responding to stressful situations. I am good at paying attention to detail which is essential for this career. My past career as an administrative assistant I have experience with multitasking which I believe will benefit me when I become a Nurse.

3. Using the information from Chapter 3 about interests in your E-Text, how does this career match your interests (Realistic, Artistic, Social, Investigative, Conventional, and Enterprising)?

My interests are Social, Investigative, and Artistic. I feel that a career in Nursing matches my interests well. With the Social aspect I will be communicating and working with people in an environment to assist them and help them with their health. The Investigative portion will be

fulfilled by researching and diagnosing the patient and their illness and helping to come up with a treatment plan. The Artistic part will be covered by coming up with artistic ways to communicate with the patient, especially if the patient is a child, and put them at ease when they are distressed or are face with a difficult situation.

4. How does this career match your preferred lifestyle?

Being an RN matches my preferred lifestyle because I will be able to work in a clinic during the time my son is in school. I will have time to spend with my family in the evenings and on weekends. I will be able to work in a career where I will be helping people. It will be fulfilling to feel as though I am able to make a difference in people's lives.

5. What are some advantages and disadvantages of working in this career?

An advantage of becoming an RN would be that I will be able to choose my own pathway and work in a specialized field that interest me. I plan to choose working in Diabetes and becoming a Certified Diabetes Educator. Another advantage is the opportunity for advancement. After work experience and additional education, I can be placed in a management position. I could also become a nursing instructor if I choose to do so. An advantage to nursing is job security. Nurses are need in the healthcare field and there is a nursing shortage. Nurses get compensated well in wages and in benefits which is another advantage. In addition, nurses have the ability to travel to other places within the country or international to help others who are in need of medical services. Some disadvantages of working as a Nurse are that it is physically demanding. Nurses have to move and lift patients, they are standing on their feet for extended periods of time, and their hands may tire after long days of writing and charting patient information. Another disadvantage of Nursing would be the shifts that a nurse may work. Some nurses may work up to 12 hour shifts a day. That is a long time to be on your feet. If working in a hospital setting a disadvantage may be the long hours you may have to work. With a nursing shortage there may not be nurses to cover the shifts. If there is not another nurse to replace you then you will have to stay and cover the additional shift as well.

6. What is the potential salary or earnings for this career?

The potential salary for a Registered Nurse ranges from \$45,000 to \$95,000 depending on education and experience. The median annual income for a Registered Nurse is \$65,000. There is the possibility to earn up to \$120,000 in a management position.

7. What is the projected job growth or outlook for this career?

The projected growth for Registered Nurses is up to 16% between 2014 and 2024. The growth in nursing will be due largely in part that the population of older people is growing. The expected life span for people has increased and people are living longer. In addition, with the Healthcare Reform Act more people have health insurance and are receiving healthcare than before. With this increase as well more nurses are needed in the field.

8. What are the educational requirements?

There are three paths to becoming an RN. One way is to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing. Second, is to earn an Associate's degree in nursing. Third is to obtain a diploma from an approved vocational or trade-school nursing program. All Registered Nurses are required to be licensed and the candidate must pass a national licensing exam after completing a nursing program.

9. What interesting facts did you discover?

An interesting fact that I did not know was the important role that Florence Nightingale played in the history of modern nursing. In the mid 1800s during the Crimean war, she helped to bring about sanitary conditions for the soldiers that were being cared for in makeshift hospitals. The nursing profession today has many rules and regulations to follow due largely by influence of Florence Nightingale. I was not aware of her role in history and found it interesting that she made such an impact on the nursing profession. She is considered to be a pioneer in modern nursing.

10. List the three additional sources of information that you used.

O*Net OnLine

<http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-1141.00>

Occupational Outlook Handbook

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

Nurse Career Tips

<http://www.nursecareertips.com/>