Includes 201 nursing careers, each with career descriptions, educational requirements, and requisite skills

Provides information about certification and salaries with relevant websites included

Features interviews with nurses in academia and practice settings

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Editors
Careers in Nursing

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We, the authors of this book, are passionate about nursing and the career opportunities within the nursing profession. We have had many opportunities within our own careers to expand our roles, and to contribute to quality patient care, nursing and health care science, and to make the world a better place for patient and their families, for the communities in which we live and work, and importantly, the citizens of the world.

We firmly believe that there is no other career that has as much potential for personal and professional satisfaction. A career in nursing offers opportunities to care for others from infancy to the older adult, from those who need health information to those experiencing a terminal illness. Nurses work with individuals and families at their most vulnerable times of illness and have the most intimate relationships with patients. Nurses are there in time of need. They are in hospitals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, monitoring every aspect of patient care. They are in communities, delivering home care to those who are house-bound due to illness or injury, providing health education in schools, in wellness centers, and in medical offices. They are aboard cruise ships and on resorts, and they transport patients, via helicopter or ambulance, when care is necessary at another facility. Nursing is ...listening to the cries of a newborn and the joys of the parents; being with an older woman who has a fractured hip who knows she will no longer be able to live independently; tending to the wounds of those in combat, and understanding how anxious they are to return to their loved ones at the same time they want to serve their country; soothing the pain of the person recovering from surgery, and studying the effects of new treatments for cancer, cardiovascular disease, and many other illnesses.

As you will discover in this book, nurses have the choice of a myriad of careers. We have identified the 201 most prominent careers in nursing at this time. We have provided information so that the reader is introduced...
Introduction

to opportunities within and across the careers. For example, many nurses combine careers as educators, teaching part time in schools of nursing, and expert clinicians, working clinically as advanced practice nurses in hospitals and health centers. Nurses who hold academic appointments combine their teaching role with that as researcher. Nurses who work in management often combine their administrative work with writing and lecturing.

If you are considering a career in nursing, this book will introduce you to the wide range of career choices. You will be surprised and impressed with the many career choices available. As I have talked with potential students, who have over a period of time realized that a career in nursing might be for them, they have mentioned the stereotypes that are still prevalent in the public view of nursing. Indeed there are strong stereotypes, many of which are dated to years ago when there was little education required of nurses and when much of the work was task oriented and rote rather than requiring the high level clinical judgment and skills needed today.

If you know someone who is considering a career in nursing, this book is a very good overview. Many prospective nurses are not aware of the broad range of opportunities, even though they may have decided on the career choice. I often hear people say that they could never be a nurse as they do not like the “blood and guts” aspect of care. Granted there is some dimension of the educational program that requires the nursing student to experience bloody procedures, there are many career choices where there is no blood. Read about the possibilities in psychiatric or community health nurse, in historical or ethical research, or in executive positions.

If you are a guidance counselor, this book will help you learn more about the profession of nursing. You will be better prepared to advise others about the educational requirements and the competencies necessary for the specific careers.

If you are a nurse and considering a change in your career, this book will help you identify the range of opportunities and the skill sets necessary for each career. You may decide to return to school to gain more education to prepare yourself for the new career, or you may learn more about a particular career by shadowing an expert nurse who is already in that career.

How should you use this book to find a job in nursing? First you should acquaint yourself with the range of possibilities: review the table of contents for the list of career choices in nurses. Next, eliminate some
of these options. If you have an interest in older adults look first at the descriptions within geriatric nursing. If you are more interested in caring for children there are a range of careers for pediatric nurses that are described here. The following tips will help you in your search of career or job within nursing:

- Consider the factors that are most important in your life; if you like being with and helping others then a career in nursing could be right for you.
- Ask yourself why you might want to do a particular kind of work; self-assessment is an important part of a career choice.
- Think about nursing as a career, not just a job choice; engage in some long-range planning as well as short term consideration of job opportunities.
- Decide if you have any parameters to rule out, for example, age group.
- Consider the place of employment; some people are petrified of hospitals, yet they might make good community health nurses.
- Select what you might consider the “top 10” careers of interest.
- Read the basic description provided for the careers that might interest you.
- Review the educational requirements for the career; if you have this educational background you are prepared to pursue the career. If you do not have the required educational background but are still interested in the career, decide how you will become prepared. There are many formal college and university programs and continuing education opportunities that are available and many provide flexible schedules for the student or the nurse who has to continue to work full time.
- Review the core competencies that are needed to be successful in the career. If you do not already possess these competencies, decide how you will prepare yourself.
- Develop your resume, highlighting your experiences and competencies that qualify you for the new career.
- Learn as much as you can about the position; access the web sites that are listed for each career in order to obtain more detailed information.
- Ask others what they know about the career; plan to meet someone who is already in that career. Today the internet makes it possible to reach out to others across the globe in order to
obtain information. Schedule a time to meet with or talk with someone who is in the career of your choice. Ideally you also would find an opportunity to “shadow” the person in their place of employment for at least a day.

Networking with others is an important part of career development; you should take every opportunity to meet others and continue to network with them throughout your career development.

Consider all opportunities carefully: Many opportunities for career advancement will come your way; consider each opportunity and decide if it fits into your overall career goals.

Develop an action plan to get you where you want to be in your career; make certain you have carefully considered the time frame that will be necessary for you to achieve your goals.

Let others know, as many people as possible, that you are interested in a particular career in nursing. There is a strong network of nurses in key positions who could be helpful to you in your career search; do not hesitate to approach others for help.

Find a mentor who can help you with your continuing professional development over the life of your career.

Continue to build your skills in your new position and maintain your contacts for future job searches.

What binds these many nursing career opportunities are the values of the profession. Nursing is a caring profession, built on the belief that as humans we are all striving toward health. Nurses have a commitment to help individuals obtain and maintain health through education, therapeutic interventions and evaluations of the care provided. As professionals nurses have a societal responsibility to help others move toward health and wellness.

We believe that the descriptions of each of the careers in this book reflect the core dimensions of nursing, the caring, competence and commitment to excellence and to serving people in their time of need. We are proud to be nurses. Through this book we want to spread the word, not only of the value of our profession, but also of the benefits to individuals who choose a career in nursing.

Joyce J. Fitzpatrick
Emerson E. Ea
Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN, FNAP, is the Elizabeth Brooks Ford Professor of Nursing, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in Cleveland, OH, where she was Dean from 1982 through 1997. She holds an adjunct position as Professor in the Department of Geriatrics, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY. She earned a BSN at Georgetown University, Washington, DC; an MS in Psychiatric–Mental Health Nursing at The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH; a PhD in Nursing at New York University, New York, NY; and an MBA from CWRU in 1992. In May, 1990, Dr. Fitzpatrick received an honorary doctorate, Doctor of Humane Letters, from her alma mater, Georgetown University. She has received numerous honors and awards; she was elected a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in 1981, and in 1996 a Fellow in the National Academies of Practice. She has received the American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award 18 times. In 2002, Dr. Fitzpatrick received the American Nurses Foundation Distinguished Contribution to Nursing Science Award for her sustained commitment and contributions to the development of the discipline. In 2003, she received the STTI Lucie Kelly Mentor Award, and in 2005, she received the STTI Founders Award for Leadership. From 2007 to 2008 she served as a Fulbright Scholar at University College Cork, Cork, Ireland.

Dr. Fitzpatrick is widely published in nursing and health care literature having over 300 publications. She served as coeditor of the Annual Review of Nursing Research series, volumes 1 through 26; she currently edits the journals Applied Nursing Research, Archives in Psychiatric Nursing, and Nursing Education Perspectives, the official journal of the National League for Nursing. Dr. Fitzpatrick was coauthor of the book, 101 Careers in Nursing, published

**Emerson E. Ea, DNP, APRN, BC, CEN,** is Clinical Assistant Professor and Senior Clinical Faculty Associate, Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University College of Nursing. He is a Board Certified Adult Nurse Practitioner and Medical–Surgical Nurse by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and is an Emergency Room Nurse certified by the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City, Philippines, his Master’s of Science specializing in Adult Health from Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, Brooklyn, NY, and his Doctor of Nursing Practice with a focus on Educational Leadership at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH. He is also a recipient of a scholarship from Thomas Edison State College, Trenton, NJ, where he completed a Certificate in Distance Learning. His scholarship interests include acculturation among immigrant nurses especially Filipino Registered Nurses, cardiovascular health among Filipino Americans, and geriatric nursing.
201 Careers in Nursing
1 ACUPUNCTURIST NURSE

BASIC DESCRIPTION
An acupuncturist nurse is a holistic practitioner based on Traditional Chinese Medicine’s concept of integrative health. The acupuncturist nurse uses needles, heat or pressure to promote wellness, health, and balance. They are employed by ambulatory centers and holistic care centers.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Registered Nurse is preferred; certification could be obtained from the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

CORE COMPETENCIES/SKILLS NEEDED
Additional education and training in holistic medicine are required

■ Knowledge of anatomy and Centers for Disease Control infection control standards
■ Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

RELATED WEB SITES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
■ National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (www.nccaom.org)
■ The American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (www.aaaomonline.org)
ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

BASIC DESCRIPTION
Acute care nurse practitioners are advanced practice nurses who specialize in providing care for acutely ill patients in a variety of settings. The environment in which acute care nurse practitioners function is very intense and dramatic. Some of the characteristics of an acute care nurse practitioner’s work include coordinating patient care, assessing the patient’s health history, ordering diagnostic tests, performing therapeutic procedures, and prescribing medications. Possibilities to work exist in:

- Emergency rooms
- Operating rooms
- Critical care units
- Transplant units

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Master of Science in Nursing with advanced practice certification as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner is required. Graduate programs are generally 2 years in length. The number of schools that offer this specialty is limited; therefore, entry into these programs is competitive. Certification is available from the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

CORE COMPETENCIES/SKILLS NEEDED
- Technical competency involving use of complex and computerized equipment
- Regulating ventilators
- Hemodynamic monitoring
- Obtaining blood samples from central IV lines
- Interpersonal competency dealing with patients and their families in life-threatening situations
Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

- Ability to work with interdisciplinary teams
- Extensive experience and expertise in assessing and managing acutely ill patients

RELATED WEB SITES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners (www.aanp.org)
- Nurse Practitioner Support Services (www.nurse.net)
- Cost and Quality: The Emergence of the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (www.cost-quality.com)
- Nurse Practitioner Associates for Continuing Education (www.npace.org)
- American Nurses Association Credentialing Center (www.nursecredentialing.org)
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses (www.aacn.org)
ADDICTIONS COUNSELOR

BASIC DESCRIPTION
Nurses who are addictions counselors work in organizations that specialize in helping clients overcome addictive disorders. Treatment programs exist in all regions of the country. Chemical dependency is a major health problem, and nurses work with clients to help them learn more effective ways of coping.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Bachelor of Science in Nursing is preferred with certification as a Certified Addictions Registered Nurse (CARN). Three years’ experience as an RN is necessary for CARN certification. Within the 5 years prior to the application for certification, a minimum of 4,000 hours (2 years) of nursing experience related to addictions is required. There is also an advanced practice certification that requires the Master of Science in Nursing.

CORE COMPETENCIES/SKILLS NEEDED
- Excellent interpersonal and counseling skills
- Good interviewing techniques
- Strong assessment skills
- Counseling ability
- Compassion and empathy
- Interest in mental health
- Ability to work in interdisciplinary teams

RELATED WEB SITES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
- International Nurses Society on Addictions (www.intnsa.org)
- American Nurses Association Peer Assistance Program (www.ana.org)
4 ■ ADMINISTRATOR/MANAGER

BASIC DESCRIPTION
Nurse administrators and executive directors are needed in numerous organizations. Knowledge of finance, law, human resources, and related topics improve the systems necessary for the advancement of health care administration and delivery. Nurses are managers, administrators, and executive directors in hospitals, nursing homes, colleges and universities, and health maintenance organizations. Administrators employ, direct, evaluate, promote, and terminate employees. An administrator must have the ability to analyze budgets and make certain that financial plans are consistent with organizational mission and goals. Work hours are often long, but the rewards are gratifying in shaping the future of the organization, the delivery of care, and the profession.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Bachelor of Science in Nursing is now the entry-level degree. The majority of high-level nursing executives hold a Master of Science in Nursing or an MBA. In addition, many nurse executives are certified in administration through the American Nurses Association Credentialing Center.

CORE COMPETENCIES/SKILLS NEEDED
■ Human resource knowledge
■ Excellent interpersonal skills
■ Ability to communicate clearly and persuasively
■ Leadership skills
■ Self-confidence
■ Budgeting and finance skills
■ Writing skills
■ Strong work ethic
■ Managerial competencies

RELATED WEB SITES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
■ American Organization of Nurse Executives (www.aone.org)
■ American Nurses Association (www.ana.org)
■ American College of Healthcare Executives (www.ache.org)
Profile:
LORNA GREEN
Nurse Manager
Gero-Psychiatric Unit

1. What is your educational background in nursing (and other areas) and what formal credentials do you hold?

I am a clinical nurse manager at a major medical center where I have been employed for the past 23 years. My experience includes 9 years as a general duty psychiatric nurse, working with geriatric patients, adult and adolescent patients with various psychiatric diagnoses and symptoms/behaviors, 2 years as senior clinical nurse, and 12 years as a clinical nurse manager. My credentials include an Associate degree in nursing, a Bachelor of Science (Nursing), Cum Laude, and a Master of Science (Nursing).

2. How did you first become interested in the career that you are currently in?

For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a nurse. During my early childhood, I saw my mother, aunts and neighborhood women minister to friends and relatives who became ill. They provided whatever care was needed for as long as it was needed, without payment or other expectations. All care was rendered at home. Only one doctor was available to provide care for all the people on our island and the nearest hospital was only accessible by boat or by small plane in the later years. Without the diagnosis, care, and support of the neighbors, friends, and relatives, many people would have suffered and died. Therefore, I do not think that I ever “became interested” in nursing, I believe that I was born into it. How fortunate for me that my family, culture, and circumstances of birth allowed me to recognize and develop my passion at a young age. It would not be an exaggeration to state that nursing is not only my profession, it is truly my vocation and one of the most important reasons I am on this earth.

Continued
Profile: LORNA GREEN Continued

3. What are the most rewarding aspects of your career?

Every day in nursing is rewarding in some way for me. Specifically, though, one of the most rewarding days in my life is the day I assumed responsibility of the Geriatric Psychiatry unit. The unit presented a myriad of challenges. Among the most difficult was its reputation for not being consumer oriented and the lack of cohesiveness among staff. Interpersonal relationships were fraught with conflict at times. I am proud to say that through hard work and compromise, we have turned the unit around. We now frequently receive complimentary letters from patients and their families. Doctors, nurses, and other staff members have voiced their appreciation for the improved environment. I take great pride and personal fulfillment in my contributions and continually work hard to seek further enhancements to achieve total consumer and staff satisfaction.

4. What advice would you give to others contemplating a career such as yours?

The most important advice I would impart to a nurse considering a career in administration/management would be to spend the time at the bedside involved in direct patient care as a staff nurse to broaden your knowledge base and gain perspective. Do not jump into the leadership role prematurely. The more you experience and develop, the greater amount of resource will be available to you when you take on additional responsibilities in a leadership role and this will boost your confidence level and others confidence in you when you are making critical decisions.