

NATURE OF WORK

Nursing is the largest group among healthcare occupations. Registered nurses (RNs) work to promote health, prevent disease, and help patients cope with illness. They are advocates and health educators for patients, families and communities and help individuals and groups take steps to improve or maintain their health. When providing direct patient care, they observe, assess, and record symptoms, reactions and progress in patients; assist physicians during surgeries, treatments and examinations; administer medications; and assist in rehabilitation. Some RN's are employed in other health related positions that do not provide direct patient care.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Health care facilities employ a large number of nurses. Other environments where Home Health and Public Health nurses work include patient homes, community centers and schools. Nurses may have extended periods of walking and standing. Work schedules may require nights, weekends, holidays and on call shifts. Office, outpatient, public and occupational health nurses usually work during business hours. A non-patient care work environment is generally in an office setting. Various health settings and patient conditions require following specific rules when working around particular infections, chemicals, electrical and medical equipment, or when moving patients.

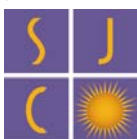
TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an approved nursing program that offers an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), a Diploma or a Bachelor of Science Degree (BSN) in Nursing is required. A national examination must then be passed in order to obtain a license to practice nursing. This license is renewed according to state regulations. Documentation to verify continuing education on specific topics may be required. Specialized certification and advanced degrees (BSN, MSN, PhD) can be obtained. Possessing a caring attitude is essential to the profession. Nurses must develop skills such as interpersonal, communication, time management, organizational, prioritization, collaboration, critical thinking and computer skills.

JOB OUTLOOK

The growth rate for employment as a registered nurse is projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2016. In addition to changes occurring in the current health care environment, practice areas for nursing continue to expand and increase job opportunities.

*Most of this information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook—2008-2009



CAREER OPTIONS

Acute Care, Long Term Care, Public Health, Home Health, Occupational Health, Educator, Medical Office, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Administrator, Staff Development, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Certified Nurse Midwives, Research, Informatics.

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico - \$41,000 - \$65,000

Nationally - \$43,000 - \$68,000

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Licensed Practical Nurse, Respiratory Therapist, Certified Nursing Assistant, Physical Therapist, Social Worker, Paramedic, Emergency Medical Tech, Occupational Therapist, Physician Assistant.

SJC Basic Program Requirements

- Nursing Program starts yearly in the Fall Semester
- Eligibility: Minimum GPA 2.75, Chemistry, Accuplacer recommended class completion.
- Program Application Due: Last Friday in January
- Selection: Based on a ranking point system
- Points: Based on cumulative GPA, Pre-Admission Exam (TEAS) Test of Essential Academic Skills, and residency status.
- Program Pre-Requisites: Minimum GPA 2.75, Introduction to Psychology 120, Anatomy & Physiology BIOL 252 (BIOL 121 is BIOL 252 pre-requisite) and 21 Basic Skills Demonstration.



For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp

www.careers-nm.org

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos083.htm