

Nursing – Licensed Practical Nurse

Nature of the Profession

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) care for sick, injured, convalescing, and handicapped patients, under the direction of physicians and registered nurses.

Most LPNs provide basic bedside care. They measure and record vital signs such as temperature, blood pressure, and pulse. They assist physicians with treatments and exams, administer medications, and they assist in convalescence and rehabilitation. LPNs also direct and assign nursing interventions under the direction of a physician or RN. They help patients with bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene. They feed patients, record their food and liquid intake and output, keep them comfortable, and care for their emotional needs.

APTITUDES

- Ability to learn basic medical terminology and nursing techniques
- Good verbal abilities for speaking and writing
- Ability to relate well to a variety of people
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity
- Ability to work calmly in a stressful situation
- Ability to work accurately within set standards
- Sufficient strength for moderate lifting

EDUCATION

The minimum educational requirement is graduation from a one- or two-year accredited program.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Kearney (P)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (P)
- College of Saint Mary – Omaha (C)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (C)
- Mid-Plains Community College – McCook, North Platte (P)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (C)
- Southeast Community College – Beatrice, Lincoln (P)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (P)

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

An applicant for a license to practice as a practical nurse must complete high school or equivalent, complete an approved program of practical nursing, and pass the NCLEX-PN exam. After LPNs complete a certification course and take a state exam, they are certified to do IV-therapy and NG intubation.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

National League for Nursing

Web Address: www.nln.org

National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc.

Web Address: www.napnes.org