

Career opportunities in the nursing profession

There are many employment opportunities available to help meet the needs and interest of those who want to enter the nursing profession. The demand for qualified nurse continues to grow. Educational requirements for those who want to enter the nursing profession can be earned at two, three, or four-year programs.

In general, a diploma program prepares individuals for staff nurse positions in hospitals, particularly if you are receiving education and training in a hospital program. Most hospital programs take approximately three years to complete. Many students attending Junior Colleges, colleges or universities can receive training to work in a hospital or for other affiliations. Junior college students generally have two-year programs and serve as preparation for basic entry-level positions. A four-year liberal arts degree in nursing is strongly advised for those interested in future career growth either in or outside a hospital setting. The positions listed here are representative of just some of the many nursing opportunities available at hospitals:

Medical/Surgical Staff Nurse:

This general category covers treatment of most diseases and conditions for which people go into hospitals. It includes nursing before, during and after surgery.

Operating Room Nurse: Works with unconscious patients and is responsible for sterilizing and circulating instruments to the surgeon during an operation.

Gerontological Nursing: Involves specialized health care of the elderly. Post-graduate work is usually required to advance in this area of nursing.

Nurse Anesthetist: After being licensed, an RN can take a course of study to become specialized in the giving of anesthesia.

Under the surgeon's instructions, this nurse also must follow the patient's color, pulse, respiration, reflexes, flow and color of blood during surgery.



Surgical team at work

Nurse Midwives: Involves the management of prenatal care, labor and delivery, post-partum care, care of the newborn and family planning.

Nurse Administrator: Includes administrative and supervisory duties plus classroom instruction in hospital schools. Besides being involved with patient care, the nurse administrator usually is responsible for staffing, overseeing reports,

counseling, ordering supplies, and record keeping. Some employment possibilities include: Private agencies and institutions, nursing homes, public health organizations, nursing associations, religious and missionary associations, Insurance companies, regional health care associations, public agencies, armed forces, public health services, Boards of Health, Boards of Education and educational institutions.

Pharmacy grads pursue hospital careers

Hospital careers hold the most attraction now for Oregon State University pharmacy graduates while the number looking to become pharmacy (drugstore) owners is going down.

An OSU survey this spring of graduating seniors showed 28 looking to careers in hospital pharmacy, 20 indicating they hoped to practice pharmacy in independent pharmacies, and 7 were looking to join chain store pharmacies. Thirteen said they wished some day to become a pharmacy owner; 31 said now, a higher proportion than in earlier years.

Most of the 1982 pharmacy graduates wanted to find jobs in the Willamette Valley (20) or Portland (18).

"That is a big part of the problem in finding jobs," observed George Constantine, assistant dean and head adviser for the school of pharmacy. "There were more positions available than graduates but some graduates were holding out for particular locations. Some of them may still be without a job too," he noted.

Between 60 and 70 per cent of the 1,500 practicing pharmacists in Oregon now are Oregon State University graduates, it was reported. Most

are found in community pharmacies throughout the state. "But an increasing number of pharmacists are employed now in hospitals, nursing homes and health care organizations."

Hospitals allow pharmacists opportunities to broaden their experiences and to participate more with physicians, nurses and other health professionals in clinical situations and to be more "patient oriented," Constantine explained.

A breakdown of the 63 graduates

showed 34 males and 29 females, some of whom combine part-time careers with their homemaker-family responsibilities. OSU has one of the nation's best records for graduating women pharmacists, Constantine noted.

The OSU pharmacy school now admits 80 students each fall to its professional program. The number is tied to Oregon's calculated need for pharmacists and to the school's staff-space resources, Constantine pointed out.

Careers in nursing

According to most knowledgeable officials there is a serious worldwide shortage of qualified nurses. There are approximately 200,000 RN vacancies nationally according to some health experts. For new nurses, this should mean not only excellent prospects for immediate employment with flexible working hours and for potential advancement, but also ample work opportunities in any part of the country and a long career in the health care service. According to the Black Nurses Association, of the 1.4 mil-

lion Registered Nurses in the country only 7 per cent are non-white. It appears from these figures black nursing graduates will be in demand. Of the newly licensed nurses who graduated in 1980, 6 per cent found employment prior to graduation and more than 16 per cent took jobs one to three months after graduation. For more information on qualifications and opportunities in the nursing profession write your local state board of nursing.

Moving blacks into the corporate world

How many major corporations in the U.S. can say that they have employed enough blacks at all levels of their organization so their numbers are proportionate to the percentage of blacks in the population of the U.S.?

The answer is none. Some corporations have made progress in increasing the numbers of blacks in certain types of jobs, and some corporations have managed to decrease the preponderance of blacks in service jobs or unskilled blacks into semi-skilled, skilled, supervisory, and middle management jobs. There are a very few blacks who are in the top management of corporations. Typically, the higher up in a business organization, the fewer blacks and other minority groups are employed.

In a study conducted in 1972, Ted Purcell and Gerald Cavanaugh estimated that, assuming the current rate of progress, it would take 86 years for blacks to achieve a proportional representation in managerial, official and profession positions in the United States. The 1960s and early 1970s were the days of rather ambitious and optimistic progress in race relations and equal opportunity; today there is at least a freeze, if not a reversal, of these gains. Thus, it is clear that there is a long way to go before blacks in the U.S. will be fairly represented at all levels of business organizations.

The basic credentials needed to enter into managerial ranks of the business world is at least a college degree, if not a master's degree.

However, many blacks enter college with the belief that getting a college degree will almost automatically grant them access to good jobs, high income, and the opportunity to improve their status in society.

Unfortunately, many learn late in their college years or even after graduation that their academic studies have not prepared them for the world of work and that they lack marketable skills in the business world. They also learn that the competition for entry jobs into the business world is not skewed in their favor by EEO and affirmative action pressures on employers; rather, they face problems in obtaining employment because of their skin color and cultural background.



Working in the world of health care can be hard work and long hours, but *very* rewarding. If you like to help people, have an interest in the sciences or find typing and filing the way you want to spend your working hours, consider the many opportunities in health care.

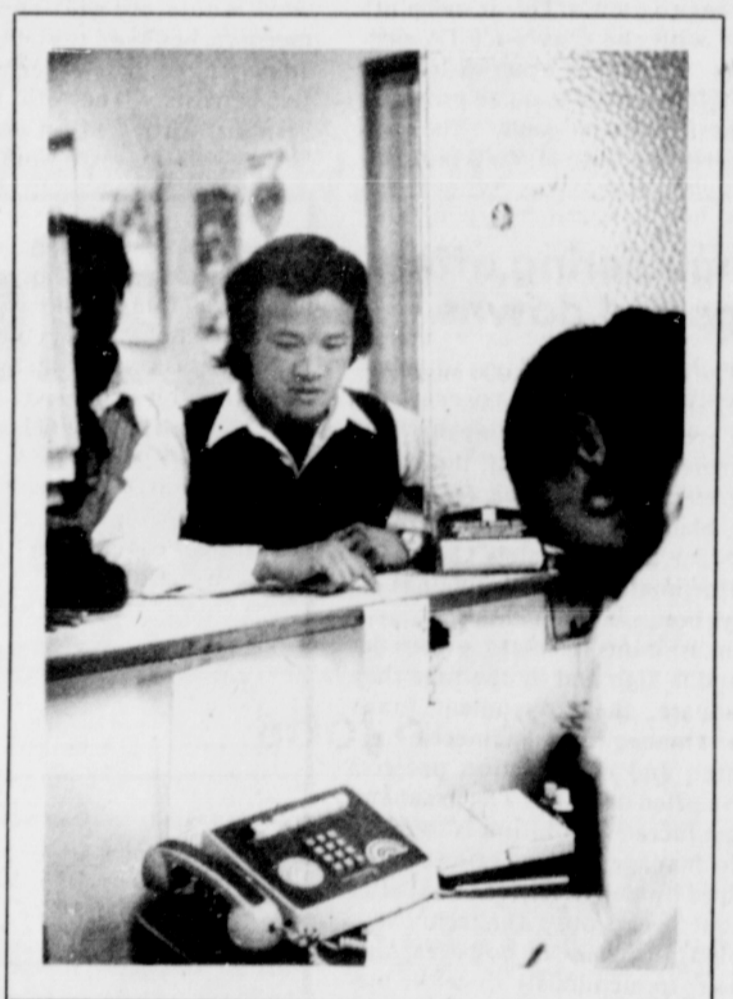
Many positions require Ph.D., M.S. or B.S. degrees at the university level; however, many are positions that require past working experience and some positions provide on the job training.

If you would like some career counseling about a future in the health care field, we would be happy to assist you.

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