



CAREERS

Profile of a Nurse and the Profession



Registered Nurse Regina Blake goes over the computer files at Legacy Emanuel hospital.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

BY JOY RAMOS

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Regina Blake, a Registered Nurse for 36 years, currently works at Legacy Emanuel Hospital's Surgical Unit in northeast Portland. She loves the diversity of her duties: helping to teach computer documentation system

to new employees in the nursing division and tending to patients. Blake normally works between 36 to 48 hours per week.

For those considering this profession, a 2-year Associate degree in Nursing is the basic requirement.

After ten years of work experi-

ence, an average wage for nurses is around \$25 per hour. Pay varies, depending upon the number of years worked and the hospital system that a nurse works for.

Nationwide, there is a great demand for nurses in the field, especially with large numbers of nurses from the Baby Boom era

retiring and those who leave out of disillusionment with the profession.

According to Blake, for anyone interested in becoming a nurse, she highly recommends getting experience first as a Certified Nursing Assistant to get a good "feel" for the work.

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