

CAREER OUTLOOK

Employment opportunities for licensed practical nurses are expected to be excellent in the years to come. There is an expected growth of 10%-20% through the year 2010 for this area of nursing. Nursing schools are graduating far more LPNs than they have in the past in order to keep up with the demand in the job market. As with most other professions, the need to replace current employees will continue to be the main source of job openings. The growing elderly population, which requires more care from trained personnel, and the general growth of health care will also cause this job market to expand. Another area of exceptional growth for LPNs will be in nursing homes. Long-term care of elderly patients will be an increasing concern to the nation's health care system.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses
893 US Hwy 70 West, Suite 202
Garner, NC 27529
Phone: (919) 779-0046
Web: www.nflpn.org

American Hospital Association
Division of Nursing
840 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: (312) 422-3000
Web: www.aha.org

Mississippi LPN Association
607 Rosemary Drive
Gulfport, MS 39507
Phone: (601) 388-5778



MHA HEALTH CAREERS CENTER

6425 LAKEOVER ROAD (39213)
P.O. Box 16444
JACKSON, MS 39236-6444
PHONE (601) 982-3251
FAX (601) 368-3200

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LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) are a vital part of the health care system and participate in a variety of different work settings. They perform duties that may include giving injections, taking vital signs, performing basic diagnostic tests, observing patients, dressing wounds, and administering medication. They also assist patients in daily living activities such as eating, dressing, exercising, and bathing. LPNs usually work under the supervision of registered nurses, physicians, and/or dentists. Additional training is available to allow LPNs to care for patients in specialized areas such as pediatrics, surgery/recovery, obstetrics, and psychiatry. Licensed practical nurses are often responsible for observing patients, recording their reactions to medications and treatments, and reporting the results to the registered nurse or physician in charge. Individuals interested in becoming a licensed practical nurse should be intelligent, tactful, caring, and possess sound judgment. These skills, along with good health and physical stamina, are very important in this line of work. LPNs should also have a sincere interest in people and be able to maintain good interpersonal relationships with them.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Licensed Practical Nurses work in various health care facilities that include hospitals, nursing homes, dental offices, mental health institutions, private homes, community health clinics, and public health departments.

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Individuals interested in a career as a licensed practical nurse should take high school courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, psychology, emergency medical technology, first aid, physical education, foods and nutrition, child growth and development, health occupations/medical professions, computer skills, English, geometry, and history.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Students entering a practical nursing program must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. An applicant must complete an accredited program and pass the National Council Licensure Examination for licensed practical nurses. Programs include classroom as well as supervised clinical practice in patient care. Individuals interested in becoming a licensed practical nurse should contact schools for information on admission and course of study.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Coahoma Community College
3240 Friars Point Road
Clarksdale, MS 38614
Phone: (662) 627-2571

Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Wesson and Magee Campuses
PO Box 649
Wesson, MS 39191
Phone: (601) 643-5101

Meridian Community College
910 Highway 19 N.
Meridian, MS 39307
Phone: (601) 483-8241

Mississippi Delta Community College
PO Box 668
Moorhead, MS 38761
Phone: (662) 246-6322

East Central Community College
PO Box 129
Decatur, MS 39327
Phone: (601) 635-3237

East Mississippi Community College
PO Box 158
Scooba, MS 39358
Phone: (662) 476-8442

Hinds Community College
Jackson and Vicksburg Campuses
1750 Chadwick Drive
Jackson, MS 39204
Phone: (601) 372-6507

Holmes Community College
Grenada and Ridgeland Campuses
1060 Avent Drive
Grenada, MS 38901
Phone: (662) 226-0830

Itawamba Community College
2176 S. Eason Boulevard
Tupelo, MS 38801
Phone: (662) 620-5000

Jones County Junior College
900 South Court Street
Ellisville, MS 39437
Phone: (601) 477-4000

MS Gulf Coast Community College
Jackson Co., George Co., and Jefferson Davis Campuses
PO Box 100
Gautier, MS 39553
Phone: (228) 497-9602

Northeast Mississippi Community College
Cunningham Boulevard
Booneville, MS 38829
Phone: (662) 728-7751

Northwest Mississippi Community College
Senatobia, Oxford, DeSoto, and Benton Campuses
4975 Highway 51 North
Senatobia, MS 38668
Phone: (662) 562-3200

Pearl River Community College
Poplarville and Hattiesburg Campuses
101 Hwy 11 North
Box 5120
Poplarville, MS 39470
Phone: (601) 403-1000

Southwest Mississippi Community College
College Drive
Summit, MS 39666
Phone: (601) 276-2000

SALARY RANGE

Ave. Annual Salary--\$32,500

Salary Range--\$26,100-\$35,400