


Careers in Health Care

Sample “Career Ladders” including Typical Yearly Salaries \$ and Required Education & Training 

These “career ladders” have been created to show you the kinds of positions available in different career fields, the opportunities for growth in these fields, and the kinds of education and training needed for each position. There are many more opportunities than are listed here. While we display several specific “career ladders,” it is important to know that there are numerous ways to progress (or “climb”) in every field. In fact, career ladders are as unique as individual workers.

The salary amounts shown are “median” annual earnings drawn from information available from the sources cited below and are specific to the Philadelphia region. A “median” is a number in the middle of a set of numbers. So half of the salaries found for a specific job were above that figure and half were below it.


Faculty/Nurse Educators

 **\$ 72,000**
Masters or Doctoral degree


Nurse Manager or Clinical Director

 **\$76,990**
Master’s Degree, professional license and continuing education


Registered Nurse (RN)

 **\$60,010**
Associate’s degree (Bachelor’s degree preferred), professional exam and license


Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

 **\$37,940**
Practical nursing program, professional exam and license


Endocardiographer

 **\$69,700**
Associate’s degree (Bachelor’s degree preferred), professional exam, certification preferred


Registered Nurse (RN)

 **\$60,010**
Associate’s degree (Bachelor’s degree preferred), professional exam and license


Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

 **\$37,940**
Practical nursing program, professional exam and license


Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

 **\$23,160**
High school diploma with vocational training


Clinical Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)

 **\$73,170**
Master of Science and certification

Registered Nurse (RN)

 **\$60,010**
Associate’s degree (Bachelor’s degree preferred), professional exam and license

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

 **\$37,940**
Practical nursing program, professional exam and license



Career Ladders



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This handout was created by the Philadelphia Youth Network with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry through the Regional Career Education Partnership program. Career overviews, wages, and experience requirements are adapted from the Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition and the Occupational Employment Statistics, May 2007. Salary averages are specific to the Philadelphia region. For more information or to download copies, please visit www.pyninc.org.

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Sample “Career Ladders” including Typical Yearly Salaries and Required Education & Training

Faculty/Nurse Educators

Faculty/Nurse Educators are responsible for designing, implementing, evaluating and revising academic and continuing education programs for nurses. These include formal academic programs that lead to a degree or certificate, or more informal continuing education programs designed to meet individual learning needs. They work in a variety of settings including hospital staff development departments, colleges and universities.

\$ 72,000

Masters or Doctoral degree

Nurse Manager or Clinical Director

Nurse managers plan, direct, coordinate, and supervise the delivery of health care. These professionals are either specialists in charge of a specific clinical unit/department or generalists who manage an entire facility or system.

\$76,990

A Master's Degree can be earned in a variety of health related services: Nursing Administration, Health Services Administration, Long-term Care, Health Sciences, Public Health, Public Administration, or Business Administration as is the standard credential for most generalist positions in this field. However, a bachelor's degree in nursing or in another health-related field may be adequate for some entry-level positions; NCLEX-RN licensure; continuing education.

Registered Nurse (RN)

RNs, regardless of specialty or work setting, treat patients, educate patients and the public about various medical conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients' family members. RNs record patients' medical histories and symptoms, help perform diagnostic tests and analyze results, operate medical machinery, administer treatment and medications, and help with patient follow-up and rehabilitation.

\$60,010

Associate's degree in nursing required, Bachelor's degree in nursing preferred; passing score on the NCLEX-RN licensing exam; additional certification required for specialty nursing (i.e. nurse anesthetists)

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

LPNs care for patients in many ways. Often, they provide basic bedside care. Many LPNs measure and record patients' vital signs such as height, weight, temperature, blood pressure, pulse, and respiration. They also prepare and give injections and enemas, monitor catheters, dress wounds, and give alcohol rubs and massages. To help keep patients comfortable, they assist with bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene, moving in bed, standing, and walking. They might also feed patients who need help eating. Experienced LPNs may supervise nursing assistants and aides.

\$37,940

Completion of a practical nursing program, passing score on the NCLEX-PN licensing exam

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

CNAs provide hands-on care and perform routine tasks under the supervision of nursing and medical staff. Specific tasks vary, with aides handling many aspects of a patient's care.

\$23,160

High school diploma with vocational training in nursing assistantship

Endocardiographer

Endocardiographers conduct pulmonary or cardiovascular system tests using ultrasound equipment.

\$69,700

Associate's degree in nursing required, Bachelor's degree in nursing preferred; passing score on the NCLEX-RN licensing exam; Vascular or Pulmonary Nurse certification preferred.

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Clinical Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)

CRNAs work for hospitals in the operating rooms. Their basic training is as a nurse. Their responsibilities are to safely put patients under anesthesia before surgery and keep them pain free throughout the duration. They administer medications and monitor the patient's status while in the operating room.

\$73,170

RN certification, Master of Science in Nursing

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