

# Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)



## Nature of the Profession

The profession of a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) is characterized by a vital and hands-on role in the healthcare system. LPNs provide direct patient care under the supervision of registered nurses (RNs) and other healthcare professionals. Their nature of the profession involves administering medications, monitoring vital signs, assisting with activities of daily living, and supporting patients' overall well-being. LPNs often work in various healthcare settings, including hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities. LPNs interact closely with patients, families, and the healthcare team. LPNs contribute significantly to the delivery of quality healthcare, playing a crucial role in the coordination and implementation of nursing care plans.

## Aptitudes

- **Clinical Skills:** LPNs excel in administering medications, wound care, and monitoring vital signs for direct patient care.
- **Communication and Interpersonal Skills:** Crucial for LPNs to interact effectively with patients, families, and the healthcare team, fostering trust and ensuring comprehensive care.
- **Adaptability:** LPNs, often in dynamic healthcare settings, adapt to changing conditions, emergencies, and diverse patient needs with flexibility and efficiency.
- **Attention to Detail:** Essential in nursing, LPNs focus on precision in tasks like medication administration and documentation to ensure accurate and safe care.

## Education

Becoming an LPN typically involves completing a practical nursing program, which usually lasts around 12 to 18 months. These programs are offered by various institutions, including community colleges and vocational schools. This educational pathway provides a focused and accelerated route for individuals seeking to enter the nursing profession and contribute to direct patient care under the supervision of registered nurses and other healthcare professionals.

## Certification

Upon completing the practical nursing program, aspiring LPNs must pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) to obtain licensure.

## Annual Mean Wage

\$55,860

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