

# Step Up to the Future as a

# Registered Nurse



## Registered Nurse (RN) Programs are Available at the Following Community Colleges:

Allan Hancock College	Los Angeles Trade-Tech College
American River College	Los Angeles Valley College
Antelope Valley College	Los Medanos College
Bakersfield College	Mendocino College
Butte College	Merced College
Cabrillo College	Merritt College
Cerritos College	MiraCosta College
Chabot College	Mission College
Chaffey Community College	Modesto Junior College
Citrus College	Monterey Peninsula College
City College of San Francisco	Moorpark College
College of Marin	Mt. San Antonio College
College of San Mateo	Napa Valley College
College of the Canyons	Ohlone College
College of the Desert	Palomar College
College of the Redwoods	Pasadena City College
College of the Sequoias	Rio Hondo College
College of the Siskiyous	Riverside City College
Contra Costa College	Sacramento City College
Copper Mountain College	Saddleback College
Cuesta College	San Bernardino Valley College
Cypress College	San Diego City College
De Anza College	San Joaquin Delta College
East Los Angeles College	Santa Ana College
El Camino College	Santa Barbara City College
El Camino College	Santa Monica College
Compton Community Educational Center	Santa Rosa Junior College
Evergreen Valley College	Shasta College
Fresno City College	Sierra Community College
Gavilan College	Solano Community College
Glendale Community College	Southwestern College
Golden West College	Ventura College
Grossmont College	Victor Valley Community College
Hartnell College	West Hills College
Imperial Valley College	Yuba College
Long Beach City College	
Los Angeles City College	
Los Angeles Harbor College	
Los Angeles Pierce College	
Los Angeles Southwest College	

## Sources for Further Information About Registered Nurses:

**California Community  
Colleges' Health Program  
Directory (RHORCs)**  
<http://healthoccupations.org/ccchealth/>

**California Nurses  
Association**  
<http://www.calnurses.org>

**The Foundation of the  
National Student Nurses  
Association (FNSNA)**  
<http://www.nсна.org>

**Discover Nursing**  
<http://www.discovernursing.com>

**Health Care Careers**  
<http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/occmisc/HealthCareCareers.pdf>

## Certifying Agencies for RNs:

**National Licensing Exam  
National Council of State  
Boards of Nursing**  
<http://www.ncsbn.org>

**Licensing Exam NCLEX-RN  
Licensing California**  
Department of Consumer  
Affairs, California Board of  
Registered Nursing  
<http://www.rn.ca.gov>

For more information, please contact one of the colleges listed above or explore the web resources. For additional information regarding this brochure please contact: North/Far North Regional Health Occupations Resource Center at (530) 879-9049.



# Registered Nurse



## Step Up to the Future!

### Facts about Registered Nurses & Job Opportunities

According to the California Employment Development Department, the need for Registered Nurses will increase by 25% from 2006 -2016 with an average of 9,900 job openings per year.

RNs must be licensed to practice in California by the State Board of Registered Nursing (BRN). To take the licensing examination, an applicant must have completed an Associate (2 year) or Bachelor's (4 year) degree in nursing.

Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) may become RNs by enrolling in a 12-18 month advanced placement nursing program. This is usually the

second year of the regular nursing program.

Applicants for registered nursing programs must be high school graduates or have a GED. Community colleges offer two-year programs leading to an Associate degree. The prerequisites to take a registered nurse program at a community college or university include Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Microbiology, English, and Beginning Algebra; they also include Basic Nutrition, Psychology, Sociology and Speech as corequisites or prerequisites. All nursing programs include supervised clinical experience. Four-year colleges and universities grant Bachelor's degrees in nursing.

### What Does a Registered Nurse Do?

Registered Nurses (RNs) are considered the backbone of health care, caring for patients in almost all health care settings. They are often responsible for the total care of patients, in preventing and detecting illness, managing care for acute illnesses, assisting patients and families in recovery and rehabilitation, and assisting patients and families manage chronic illness and death. RNs work in all areas of the hospital including medical/surgical units, critical care, emergency, peri-operative, psychiatric/mental health, obstetrics and pediatrics.

More than 60% of RNs work for hospitals. Others work in physicians' offices, nursing homes, home health agencies, clinics, schools, government agencies, universities and the military. RNs have close contact with patients and their families and can make an enormous impact on their lives. RNs implement the physicians' orders, formulate nursing care plans to assist patients to prevent illness, manage illness and restore them to their highest possible levels. RNs monitor patients' progress, provide emergency treatment when needed, and give medications and treatments. RNs also educate patients and their families on how to manage acute and chronic illness and help them to plan for their discharge home. RNs often supervise Licensed Vocational Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants and other assistive personnel.



### Personal Characteristics & Working Conditions

- Observant with good critical thinking skills.
- Organized, accurate and careful, since a person's health depends on it.
- Tolerant of body fluid exposure.
- Follow directions.
- Possess good reading comprehension, communication skills and listening skills.
- Computer literate.
- Work independently as well as with a multi-cultural team.
- Caring and sympathetic with the desire to help others.
- Stay calm during urgent situations.
- Assertive to ask for help when unprepared to complete a requested task or when orders are unclear or potentially harmful.
- Willing to work weekends, holidays, nights and 8-12 hour shifts.
- In good physical health and able to stand for long periods of time.
- Be cleared through background check for conviction of any crime which would make applicant ineligible for licensure.

### How Much Can I Earn?

The earnings of Registered Nurses vary according to their education, skill level, years of experience and geographic location. Salaries vary widely throughout California.

In 2009, according to the EDD Labor Market Information Division, the median (mid point) hourly wage was \$39.68 in California with a median annual salary of \$82,535. In the Bay Area, median salaries range from \$99,291 in the East Bay Area to \$111,199 in San Benito and Santa Clara Counties. In Sonoma County the median salary was \$85,848 while in Imperial County the median salary was \$69,709. In Southern and Central California the median salaries ranged from \$79,147 in San Diego County to \$81,383 in Santa Barbara County.

Salaries are notably lower in other states in the U.S. For more information on salaries go to: <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/>

