

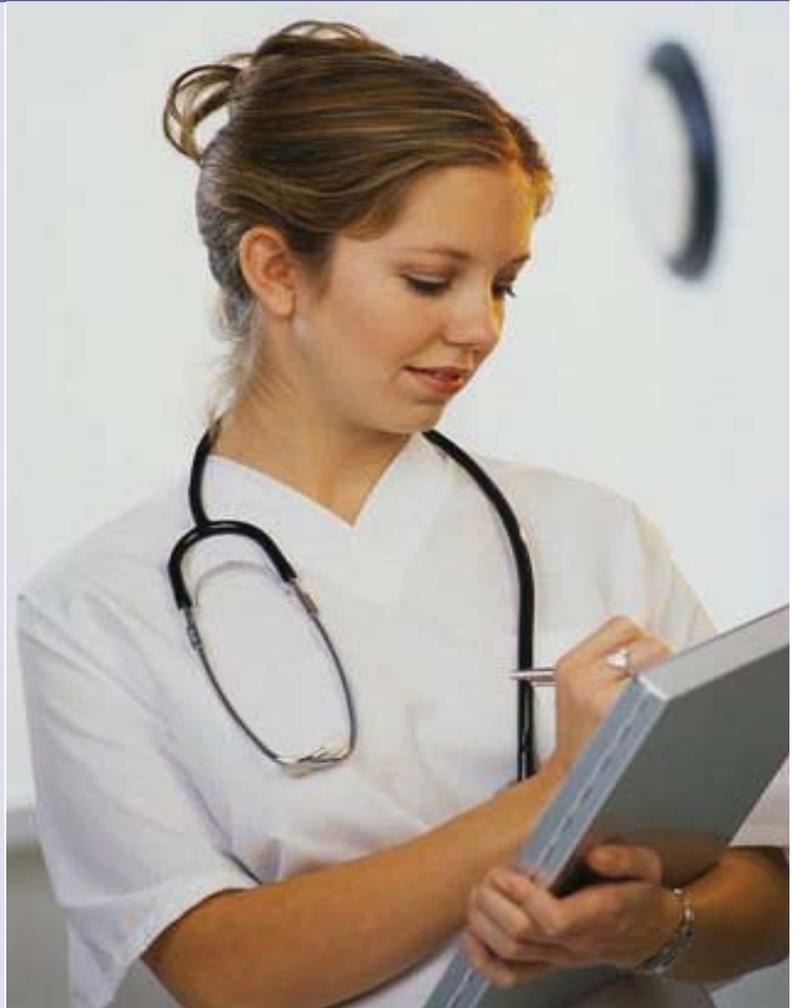
Nursing

A Career to Consider

Nationally, as well as in Rhode Island, the demand for nurses is expected to continue as baby boomers age and the need for health care continues to grow. Nationally, 4.8 million workers are classified as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses or certified nursing assistants. The national demand for nursing occupations will exceed 1.8 million during the 2008 to 2018 projection period. Approximately 85 percent of these nurses work within the health care industry.

Mirroring the national trend, the demand for nursing occupations in Rhode Island is also expected to be high as establishments in the state seek to fill nearly 700 job openings each year. It is expected that Rhode Island establishments will need to fill approximately 4,400 registered nurse, 590 licensed practical nurse and 1,700 certified nursing assistant job openings during the ten-year projection period. These openings will result from the growing demand for workers as well as the need to replace those who leave the occupations.

The federal government responded to the nursing shortage with the passage of the Nurse Reinvestment Act of 2002. The 2002 Act authorizes the following: loan repayment programs and scholarships for nursing students; public service announcements to encourage more people to enter the nursing profession; career ladder programs for those who wish to advance within the profession; best practice grants for nursing administration; long-term care training grants to develop and incorporate gerontology curriculum into nursing programs; and a fast-track faculty loan repayment program for nursing students who agree to teach at a school of nursing.



Quality Career Opportunities for

Registered Nurses,
Licensed Practical Nurses and
Certified Nursing Assistants

College and University Nursing Programs
in Rhode Island

Community College of RI
Rhode Island College
Salve Regina University
St. Joseph's School of Nursing
University of RI

Degree Received
Associate
Bachelor's
Bachelor's
Diploma in Nursing
Bachelor's



Today nearly ten percent of nurses are men.

Registered Nurse (RN)

Registered nurses record patient information, prepare rooms and equipment, assist doctors with exams and treatments, monitor and report symptoms and patient conditions and supervise other less skilled employees. Nearly 55 percent of Rhode Island's registered nurses work in hospitals and approximately 10 percent work in nursing care facilities and residential care facilities. While nursing occupations were traditionally a career choice for women, today nearly ten percent of nurses are men. Opportunities for registered nurses will continue to grow in the state as well as nationally due to medical advances, new technologies and the demands of a growing and aging population. During the 2008-2018 projection period, Rhode Island establishments will look to fill nearly 440 job openings for registered nurses each year. A registered nurse can expect to earn as much as \$26.50 per hour upon graduation with many health facilities offering shift differentials for weekend and nighttime hours. Registered nurses in Rhode Island are required to have at least an associate of science degree. Rhode Island has five providers who offer the education and training needed to become a registered nurse.

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

Licensed practical nurses care for the sick, injured, convalescent and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. Most LPN's provide basic bedside care, taking vital signs such as temperature, blood pressure, pulse and respiration. They also prepare and give injections, prepare samples for testing, record food and fluid intake and output, and assist with bathing, dressing and personal hygiene. The growth trend for LPN's is projected to continue in response to the long-term care needs of an aging population. Nearly 50 percent of Rhode Island's LPN's are employed in nursing care and residential care facilities. During the 2008-2018 projection period, Rhode Island establishments will look to fill nearly 600 job openings. Entry level wages for LPN's average \$21.37 per hour. Licensed practical nurses are required to complete a one-year training course. Rhode Island's only LPN training provider is the Community College of Rhode Island.

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

Certified nursing assistants perform a variety of duties for the injured, sick or disabled in hospitals, nursing homes, residential care facilities and in private homes. In general, they feed, dress and bathe patients; serve meals; and answer patients' bed calls. They may take blood pressure and temperature and observe and record patients' physical, mental and emotional conditions. Jobs for CNA's will continue to be in high demand as businesses that tend to individuals' long-term care needs try to keep up with a rapidly growing elderly population. Nearly 60 percent of Rhode Island's CNA's work in nursing care and residential care facilities and 21 percent work in hospitals. Rhode Island's health care facilities will look to fill over 1,700 CNA job openings during the 2008-2018 projection period. CNA certification is offered through various health care facilities, adult education programs, vocational schools and various community agencies. CNA's earn an average wage of \$13.96 an hour and are required to complete 100 hours of education and training.

	Employment		Annual Openings Due to		Total Annual Openings	Average Hourly Wage	Entry-Level Wage	Experienced-Level Wage
	2008	2018	Growth	Replacement				
Nursing Totals	22,193	25,671	349	322	671	---	---	---
Registered Nurses	12,446	14,772	233	205	438	\$33.09	\$28.13	\$38.09
Licensed Prac. Nurses	1,624	1,770	15	44	59	\$24.04	\$21.37	\$26.90
Nursing Assistants	8,123	9,129	101	73	174	\$13.96	\$11.80	\$15.81