

Career Investigation Report: Registered Nurse

Guidelines

It is essential that anyone applying to the Registered Nurse Program have a clear understanding of the educational program as well as the responsibilities of Registered Nurse professionals. The Career Investigation Report allows you to detail your decision-making process for becoming a member of this profession. Include as much relevant information as possible, but keep in mind that you must use this form ONLY and you must complete all sections.

Name: Melanie Mason

Date: October 5th, 2016

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Section 1:

To learn about occupations related to your studies, it is recommended that you talk to someone who has professional and/or educational experience in the area that interests you. Contact employers, unions or professional associations, counsellors, teachers, family members or friends to gather more information about the occupational research you are conducting.

For each person you have contacted, please provide the following: name, phone number, mailing address, email address, title, employer.

Contact 1:

Name: JoAnn Mason

Phone Number: (780) 352-7484

Mailing Address: RR 2 Gwynne, AB T0C 1L0

Email: joannmasons@gmail.com

Title: Registered Nurse

Employer: Alberta Health Services - Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Center, Unit 32

Years in Program: 30 years of experience; 4 years of post-secondary education

Speciality: Pediatrics, adult acute care, rehab, with a bit of surgical. Past experience in surgical (pre- and post-op nursing care).

Typical Duties: Charge nurse of the adult, pediatric acute care and rehab patients. Coordinate the care and decisions on the unit for the shift. Hands-on patient care, including giving medications, meal assistance, medical treatments, and hygiene, coordinating tests, and emotional care. Assist with doctors, pharmacy, lab, radiology, nutritional services, home care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, etc.. Report to the nursing manager as necessary. Answer phones, when no unit clerk is available. Coordinate staffing issues that arise, when no unit clerk is available, considering safety of all involved. Paperwork and computer work. Sitting on committees to assist with the improvement of the workings on the unit.

Contact 2:

Name: Richard Passmore

Phone Number: (780) 932-7146

Mailing Address: 957 110A St NW Edmonton, AB T6J 6N4

Email: passmorericharda@gmail.com

Title: Registered Nurse

Employer: Alberta Health Services

Years in Program: 1.5 years of experience; 4 years of post-secondary education

Speciality: Neurosurgery, trauma, and orthopedics, with a bit of ICU

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Typical Duties: Develop, coordinate, and implement patient care plans for up to seven patients. Supervise unregulated health care workers (nursing attendants, etc.). Supervise up to four nursing students and give feedback, as well as report to students' instructor. Work with physicians, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech language pathology, and radiology to develop patient goals and implement care.

Section 2:

Using the research strategies outlined on the Career Investigation website, please answer all questions in this section.

- 1) Describe one or two employment opportunities related to the field of studies you have chosen. How will your personal background enable you to be successful in this field?

As a Registered Nurse in Alberta, there are limited other occupational areas that that certification could relate to since the education is so specific. An option that could work is being a Community Health Nurse, which is an increasingly popular field. CHNs deliver medical services to people in a variety of settings, mostly outside of a hospital. Another related field is that of an Occupational Health Nurse. OHNs are employed by companies to increase health and wellness awareness for employees, and ensure organizations are following safety policies laid out by the government. (ALIS).

I consider myself to be a very helpful person who aims to make others' lives easier. Nursing is such an essential service for people, and it requires a patient, nurturing individual that can handle the stressful situations that often come with this field. As a secondary school teacher, I have the patience and giving nature that is required to be a nurse; I have also had to deal with a fair share of stressful emergency situations in school settings, so working in a hospital would be quite similar, I think.

- 2) What is a typical workday like in this profession? What does an employee do?

A nurse is a difficult occupation to summarize as most days are completely different. Providing direct nursing care is a major component of the day. Nurses also must assess the needs of people from many different backgrounds at any age. Nurses must work with other healthcare professionals to plan and coordinate nursing and patient care so that the

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best care is provided. Health counselling and teaching is also a part of the job so that others can become trained professionals. There are many other diverse activities that nurses could encounter in their days that would be exhausting to list.

3) What skills/abilities are required to be successful in the field?

Nurses are diverse and unique people, however there are some characteristics that are common amongst them. Nurses are generally in good health themselves, and understand the balance and discipline needed to be a healthy person. Having problem solving and critical thinking skills is essential because there will be problems every day that require a different way of thinking to solve. Organization is another skill that is highly coveted in nurses. Nurses require a kind demeanor when communicating, either verbally with patients or other hospital staff, or in written correspondence with doctors and other nurses, otherwise there could be miscommunicated ideas. The ability to make good judgment calls under stress is extremely important because this could mean life or death for a patient. As I stated earlier, a nurse must be patient, caring, and understanding to a patient's needs. Working well with others, yet having the ability to lead would help a nurse make it through the day.

4) What kind of education and training are required?

To become a registered nurse in Alberta, a person needs to hold a bachelor's degree in nursing. There are numerous post secondary institutions in Alberta that offer a nursing program, including: Athabasca University, Lethbridge College, MacEwan University, Mount Royal University, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge. There are some other courses or benchmarks that may not be a part of the nursing program, but would definitely be advisable to take; these include, but are not limited to: immunizations, health assessments, CPR and Standard First Aid training, and security clearance.

5) What are the starting, average, and maximum salaries in this occupation? Are there opportunities for promotion?

When starting out, registered nurses, on average, will earn \$35.02 per hour. Overall, on average, a nurse will make \$43.23 per hour; this equates to approximately \$65,492.00 annually for the average number of hours worked, which is 29 per week. The average employee earns, at most, \$47.58 per hour worked.

To be promoted to higher positions, nurses usually require additional education, such as a master's degree in nursing, or a doctoral's degree in nursing. These higher positions would be supervisory or administrative positions.

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6) Where are these jobs most likely to be located and what are the working conditions?

There are jobs all over Alberta, in urban and rural settings, for registered nurses. These jobs may be in hospitals, nursing homes, extended care facilities, rehabilitation centres, doctors' offices, clinics, community agencies, companies, and private homes. (NOC) Some nurses are also self-employed and could work wherever they wished.

The working conditions for a registered nurse can be quite demanding, intellectually, physically and emotionally. There is a very serious potential for nurses to become exposed to infectious diseases and chemicals while on the job. Sick patients may need to be lifted, and that may be a physically draining task. Adjusting to different shifts could be difficult at times, and could interfere with personal lives. (ALIS)

7) Is the job typically full-time, part-time, seasonal, or contract? What are the normal hours of work?

There are all kinds of positions for registered nurses, however most of them are part-time and contract. I assume this is due to the stress of the job because working part-time would be easier for people with other responsibilities – so they can balance their lives. Full-time positions appear to be rare.

Nurses who work in institutional settings may be required to work days, nights, weekends, and holidays during their shifts. Sick people require care at all hours of the day, and there is no break for Christmas. (ALIS)

8) How is the future outlook for this career? How stable is employment in this occupation?

According to ALIS, the career outlook for registered nurses in Alberta is expected to be quite large due to population growth, whether that be from births or immigration. Our province's population is exploding, so the need is quite grand, at 3.3% annually. New positions are being created every day, and many nurses are expected to retire soon, meaning jobs will be open too.

Being a registered nurse is a relatively stable occupation in Alberta because there are not enough nurses in our hospitals and clinics to handle the population growth currently. With the large amount of new jobs being made available to nurses, it seems that nurses have the opportunity to find a job that works best for them, and could potentially stay at it for years to come.

References

Alberta Learning Information Service. (2016). Registered Nurse. Retrieved

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