



# Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

**Course Overview:** Focuses on careers in planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.

**Career Goal (O\*NET Code):** (29-2061) - Licensed Vocational Nurses provide basic bedside care and take vital signs such as temperature, blood pressure, pulse, and respiration. They also prepare and give injections and enemas, monitor catheters, apply dressings, treat bedsores, and give alcohol rubs and massages. They monitor patients and report adverse reactions to medications or treatments. Collect samples for testing, perform routine laboratory tests, feed patients and record food and fluid intake and output and assist patients with bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

## SUGGESTED COURSEWORK

## EXTENDED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Middle School	8th	<b>HS Courses:</b>	(Local districts may list high school credit courses here)			<p><b>Curricular Experiences: ***</b>            Health Occupations Students of America</p> <p><b>Career Learning Experiences:</b>            Career Preparation            Internship            Job Shadowing            Clinical Rotations            Certifications            Clinical Volunteer Work (local hospitals &amp; medical facilities)</p>	<p><b>Extracurricular Experiences:***</b>            Language Immersion Programs            National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine            School Newspaper            Student Council            UIL Academic Competitions            Yearbook</p> <p><b>Service Learning Experiences:</b>            Boy/Girl Scouts            Campus Service Organizations            Community Service Volunteer            Medical Mission Trips            Peer Mentoring / Peer Tutoring            Special Olympics</p>
	High School	9th	<b>Courses*:</b>	English I Algebra I or Geometry Biology	World Geography Foreign Language I Physical Education or Athletics		
<b>Career-Related Electives:</b>			Principles of Health Science				
10th		<b>Courses:</b>	English II Geometry or Algebra II Chemistry	World History Foreign Language II Elective	Elective		
		<b>Career-Related Electives:</b>	Medical Terminology and Pathophysiology				
11th		<b>Core Courses:</b>	English III Algebra II or Pre-Calculus Physics	United States History Foreign Language III ** Professional Communications or Speech	Elective		
		<b>Career-Related Electives:</b>	Health Science				
12th	<b>Core Courses:</b>	English IV Pre-Calculus or Calculus 4th Science	Government/Economics Elective Elective				
	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b>	Practicum in Health Science					

### COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES -- High School

Students should take Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), dual credit, Advanced Technical Credit (ATC), or locally articulated courses (Tech Prep), if possible. List those courses that count for college credit on your campus.

**How to Become a Licensed Vocational Nurse**  
 Licensed vocational nurses take tissue samples to check for illnesses. Becoming a licensed vocational nurse requires completing an approved educational program, which takes about 1 year. They must also have a license.

### Carrer Options (Sample of reported job titles)

- Professional Associations:**
- National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service
  - National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses
  - National League for Nursing

- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Charge Nurse, Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
- Clinic Licensed Practical Nurse (CLINIC LPN)
- Clinic Nurse
- Office Nurse
- Private Duty Nurse
- Triage Licensed Practical Nurse (TRIAGE LPN)
- Pediatric Licensed Practical Nurse (PEDIATRIC LPN)

Postsecondary		<b>Texas Southmost College</b>	<b>South Texas College</b>	<b>Texas State Technical College</b>
		Vocational Nursing (CERT)	Vocational Nursing (CERT)	Vocational Nursing (CERT)
		<b>The University of Texas at Brownsville</b>	<b>The University of Texas - Pan American</b>	

\* Students must meet local & state high school graduation requirements. \*\* Required course for the Distinguished Graduation Plan (in addition to other measures). \*\*\* Based on campus availability. Students may select other elective courses for personal enrichment purposes.

This plan of study serves as a guide, along with other career planning materials, for pursuing a career path and is based on the most recent information as of 2009. All plans meet high school graduation requirements as well as college entrance requirements.



## Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

TEA Industry Cluster	Health Science
SOC Code	29-2061
Identified by	JFF Software; TIP Strategies; TWC LMCI; Tech Prep Occupations
Projected Growth (2018)	26%
BISD Magnet School Available	Yes

**Source:** Demand Occupations by Cluster, updated *June 27, 2012*

### Description

#### What Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses Do

Licensed practical and vocational nurses should be friendly and enjoy helping people. Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (known as LPNs or LVNs, depending on the state in which they work) provide basic medical care. They work under the direction of registered nurses and doctors.

#### Duties

Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses typically do the following:

- Monitor patients' health—for example, by checking their blood pressure
- Administer basic nursing care, including changing bandages and inserting catheters
- Provide for the basic comfort of patients, such as helping them bathe or dress
- Discuss health care with patients and listen to their concerns
- Report patients' status to registered nurses and doctors
- Keep records on patients' health

Duties of LPNs and LVNs vary, depending on their work setting. For example, they may teach family members how to care for a relative; help to deliver, care for, and feed infants; collect samples for testing and do routine laboratory tests; or feed patients who need help eating.

Because medical care is regulated, LPNs and LVNs may be limited to doing certain tasks, depending on their state. In some states, for example, LPNs with proper training can give medication or start intravenous (IV) drips, while in other states they cannot. State regulations govern the extent to which LPNs and LVNs must be directly supervised; for example, an LPN may provide certain forms of care only with instructions from a registered nurse.

Experienced licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses oversee and direct other LPNs or LVNs and unlicensed medical staff.

### Training Opportunities Linked to Those Jobs (Degree Types and Colleges/Universities)

#### How to Become a Licensed Practical or Licensed Vocational Nurse

Licensed practical and vocational nurses take tissue samples to check for illnesses.

Becoming a licensed practical or licensed vocational nurse requires completing an approved educational program. LPNs and LVNs must also have a license.

## Education

LPNs and LVNs must complete an accredited program, which takes about 1 year. These programs are commonly in technical schools and community colleges. They may occasionally be in high schools and hospitals as well. Practical nursing programs combine classroom learning in subjects such as nursing, biology, and pharmacology, with supervised clinical experience. These programs give certificates in practical nursing. Contact your state's board of nursing for a list of approved programs.

## Licenses

After getting a certificate, prospective LPNs or LVNs can take the National Council Licensure Examination, or NCLEX-PN. They must pass the exam to get a license and work as an LPN or LVN in all states.

## Important Qualities

**Compassion.** Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses must be empathetic and caring toward the people they serve.

**Detail oriented.** LPNs and LVNs need to be responsible and detail-oriented because they must make sure that patients get the correct treatment at the right time.

**Interpersonal skills.** Interacting with patients and healthcare specialists is a big part of their jobs, so LPNs and LVNs need good interpersonal skills.

**Patience.** Dealing with sick and injured people is often stressful. LPNs and LVNs should be patient so they can cope with stress that can come from providing healthcare to these patients.

**Speaking skills.** It is important that LPNs and LVNs be able to communicate effectively. For example, they might need to relay a patient's current condition to a registered nurse.

**Stamina.** LPNs and LVNs should be comfortable performing physical tasks, such as bending over patients for a long time.

## Advancement

With experience, licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses can advance to supervisory positions. Some LPNs and LVNs advance to other medical occupations, such as registered nurses, by getting more education through LPN to RN (registered nurse) education programs. For more information, see the profile on [registered nurses](#).

Texas Southmost College	South Texas College	Texas State Technical College	The University of Texas at Brownsville	The University of Texas - Pan American
<a href="#">Vocational Nursing (CERT)</a>	<a href="#">Vocational Nursing (CERT)</a>	<a href="#">Vocational Nursing (CERT)</a>		

## Local Employers

Employer	City	Employer	City
<a href="#">A Better Choice Home Health</a>	<a href="#">Brownsville</a>	<a href="#">All Home Care Inc</a>	<a href="#">Harlingen</a>
<a href="#">A One Health Svc Agency</a>	<a href="#">Brownsville</a>	<a href="#">All Texas Healthcare</a>	<a href="#">Harlingen</a>
<a href="#">A Touch Home Health Care Inc</a>	<a href="#">Brownsville</a>	<a href="#">Amigos Del Valle Inc</a>	<a href="#">Harlingen</a>
<a href="#">Aarp/Scsep</a>	<a href="#">Brownsville</a>	<a href="#">Angelcare Haven</a>	<a href="#">Harlingen</a>
<a href="#">Abc Pediatrics</a>	<a href="#">Brownsville</a>	<a href="#">Angelcare Home</a>	<a href="#">Harlingen</a>

## Career Options (Specific Job Types)

### Sample of reported job titles:

- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Charge Nurse, Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
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- Clinic Nurse
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- Pediatric Licensed Practical Nurse (PEDIATRIC LPN)

## Salary Ranges

### Wages for Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

Location	Pay Period	2011				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$14.74	\$16.67	\$19.79	\$23.04	\$27.44
	Yearly	\$30,700	\$34,700	\$41,200	\$47,900	\$57,100
Texas	Hourly	\$15.00	\$17.09	\$20.11	\$22.79	\$27.36
	Yearly	\$31,200	\$35,500	\$41,800	\$47,400	\$56,900
Brownsville-Harlingen, TX MSA	Hourly	\$16.63	\$19.40	\$22.12	\$25.85	\$28.36
	Yearly	\$34,600	\$40,400	\$46,000	\$53,800	\$59,000
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX MSA	Hourly	\$15.64	\$17.93	\$22.18	\$26.02	\$28.23
	Yearly	\$32,500	\$37,300	\$46,100	\$54,100	\$58,700

## Professional Associations Linked to the Careers

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For more information about licensed practical or licensed vocational nurses, visit

[National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service](#)

[National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses](#)

[National League for Nursing](#)

## Sources

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The information provided in this document was collected from the following sources:

- Occupational Outlook Handbook (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>)
- O\*NET OnLine (<http://www.onetonline.org/>)
- Texas CARES (<http://www.texascaresonline.com/>)
- CareerOneStop (<http://www.careeronestop.org/>)