

LICENSED PRACTICAL AND LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSES

OCCUPATION DESCRIPTION

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs), or licensed vocational nurses (LVNs), care for the sick, injured, convalescent, and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions. Most LPNs provide basic bedside care, taking 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 collect samples for testing, perform routine laboratory tests, feed patients, and record food and fluid intake and output.

METHOD OF ENTRY

Requires completion of vocational school training. A license is needed that requires passing an examination after completion of the training. Good physical and mental health. Specialized education and/or training Examination- National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN).

TRAINING

Texas requires LPNs to pass a licensing examination, known as the NCLEX-PN, after completing a State-approved practical nursing program. A high school diploma or its equivalent is required. Most practical nursing programs last about 1 year and include both classroom study and supervised clinical practice (patient care). LPNs should have a caring, sympathetic nature. They should be emotionally stable because working with the sick and injured can be stressful. They also should have keen observational, decision-making, and communication skills. As part of a health care team, they must be able to follow orders and work under close supervision.

RESTRICTIONS ON LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION

*Conviction of a felony, or any crime involving moral turpitude; Fraudulent procurement of license; Intemperate use of alcohol or drugs; Unprofessional conduct; Action against license in another state/jurisdiction; Psychiatric hospitalization. Texas Board of Nursing urges all NCLEX applicants with outstanding eligibility issues that could prevent them from taking the NCLEX examination upon completion of a nursing program to complete a Declaratory Order application. The student is urged to address this early rather than wait until near application for NCLEX. If you are required to answer **"YES"** to any of the following questions, you must request a Declaratory Order Petition.*

- 1. Have you ever been denied licensure by any licensing/certifying agency in any state, country or province?*
- 2. Have you ever had disciplinary action taken against you by any licensing/certifying agency in any state, country or province?*
- 3. Have you ever been convicted of a crime or received a deferred order, with or without an adjudication of guilt, for felony or misdemeanor offense other than a minor traffic violation?*
- 4. Have you been diagnosed, treated or hospitalized in the past five (5) years for schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder. (You may answer "NO" if you have completed and/or in compliance with TPAPN for mental illness.)*
- 5. Have you been addicted or treated for the use of alcohol or any drug within the past five (5) years? (You may answer "NO" if you have completed and/or in compliance with TPAPN for substance abuse.)*

6. Have you been issued any order concerning your eligibility for examination or licensure by the Board or have you ever received a proposal of ineligibility from the Board?

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

Average Hourly Wage 2007: \$17.50; Average Openings per year: 340