

LVNS ARE IN ... BE WELL-PAID WHILE WORKING YOUR WAY UP

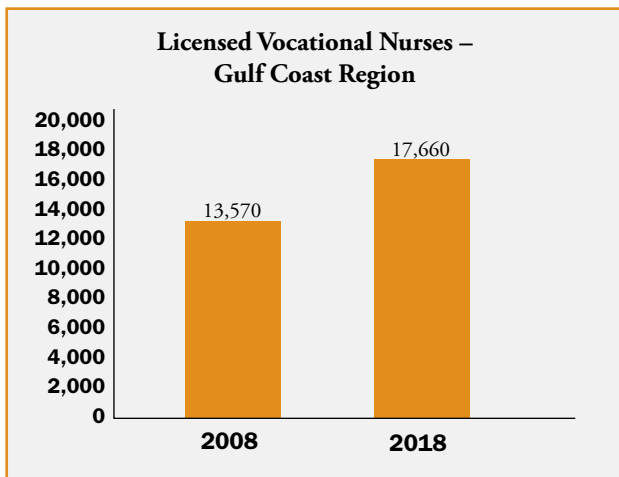
Licensed vocational nurses (LVNs), referred to as licensed practical nurses in some other states, are in high demand. LVNs care for the sick, injured, convalescent, and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. LVNs account for one in every four nursing occupations in the Gulf Coast region. Health care providers in the Gulf Coast region are growing at a fast pace in response to a population growth rate that is much higher than that of the nation.

One benefit of becoming an LVN is the ability to gain LVN certification fairly quickly (one year) and then have the opportunity to work in a relatively well-paid occupation while continuing your education for RN licensure. As an alternative to an initial two or three years to complete an associate's degree in nursing or four or five years to complete a bachelor degree program, you spend one year in LVN training, gain some work experience at the LVN level and then return to school for either an LVN to RN program in a community college or an LVN to BSN program at a university campus or online program.

Factors contributing to the shortage:

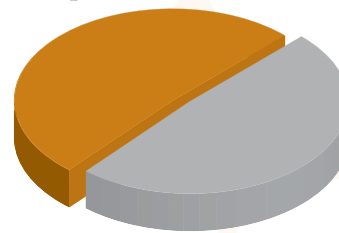
- A growing and aging population
- A workforce that is approaching retirement age
- Limited faculty available for training programs
- Increasing providers of health care in southeast Texas

THE NUMBER OF LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE JOBS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY 30 PERCENT FROM 2008 TO 2018 WITH A DEMAND FOR OVER 800 NEW LVNS EACH YEAR!



Annual Job Openings Gulf Coast Region

Due to Replacement – 425

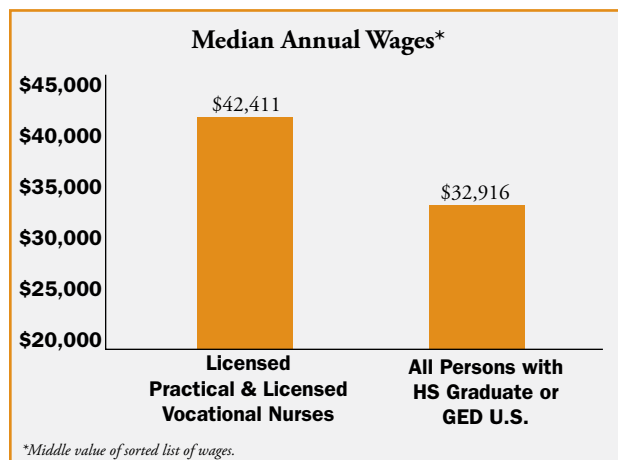


Due to Growth – 410

Brought to you by the Education Committee of The Gulf Coast Workforce Board.
For more information visit us on the web at www.wrksolutions.com
Latest data available. May 2011.

*Includes the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSES EARN 29 PERCENT HIGHER WAGES THAN THE AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE.



EARNING YOUR DEGREE: WHERE LVNS BEGIN

An LVN career can start in less than one year. The path to obtaining a license generally begins through the completion of a vocational nursing program approved by the Board of Nursing offered at:

- Community colleges
- Vocational schools

TEXAS LICENSURE OF LICENSED VOCATIONAL/PRACTICAL NURSES MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduation from high school or hold G.E.D. certificate.
- Completion of an approved school of vocational/practical nursing with a minimum grade of “C” in all nursing courses.
- Satisfactory score in one of the following examinations:
 - State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE)- with a minimum score of 350
 - National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN®)
- Must complete mandatory criminal background check requirements.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

- Texas Board of Nursing – <http://www.bon.state.tx.us/>
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing – <https://www.ncsbn.org/index.htm>

START EARLY AND BE PREPARED

Gaining admission into nursing programs is very competitive. More students are turned away each year than are accepted. Students should strive for the highest GPA possible to provide them with the edge needed for acceptance into a nursing program.

Nursing requires a high school background with strengths in English comprehension, algebra, chemistry, biology, basic math and psychology.



PREPARING FOR A LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSING CAREER*

9th Grade			
Suggested Coursework			
	English I	World Geography	Career-Related Electives: Introduction to Health Science Technology AND Medical Terminology
	Algebra I	Languages other than English I	
	Biology	Health/PE or Equivalent	
10th Grade			
Suggested Coursework			
	English II	World History	Career-Related Electives: Health Science Technology I or Mental Health or Gerontology
	Geometry	Languages other than English II	
	Chemistry	Technology Applications	
11th Grade			
Suggested Coursework			
	English III	United States History	Career-Related Electives: Health Science Technology II or Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems or Gerontology or Languages other than English III
	Algebra II	Communication Applications	
	Physics	PE or Equivalent	
12th Grade			
Suggested Coursework			
	English IV	Government/Economics	Career-Related Electives: Health Science Technology III or Independent Study or Pathophysiology or Medical Microbiology or Pharmacology or Clinical Nutrition or Psychology or Languages other than English IV
	AP Statistics	Fine Arts	
	Scientific Research and Design		

*Source: AchieveTexas.org

GULF COAST REGION LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- Alvin Community College
- Brazosport College
- College of the Mainland
- Galveston College
- Houston Community College System
- Lee College
- Lone Star College System
- San Jacinto College
- Wharton County Junior College

MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

- Nursing homes hire large numbers of LVN's.
- Most community hospitals hire LVN's. However, fewer LVN positions are available in very specialized hospitals like those in the Texas Medical Center.
- Long term care hospitals such as Triumph, Kindred, Select and Cornerstone hire many LVN's.
- Physicians' offices hire LVN's
- Psychiatric facilities and services for developmentally disabled persons, such as MHMRA and IntraCare, hire LVNs.
- Community clinics such as Good Neighbor, San Jose, El Centro de Corazon, and Legacy hire LVNs.
- City and county health departments hire LVNs.



Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Texas Relay Numbers:

1-800-735-2989(TDD) • 1-800-735-2988(VOICE) • 711

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