



Licensed Practical Nurse

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) provide direct patient care, working with the health care team to meet the needs of the whole person—physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. They give routine nursing care to the ill, injured, handicapped and recovering patient, and provide health teaching to clients in many settings. They often assist registered nurses in more complex, non-routine care. Typical duties include taking vital signs, administering prescribed medications, giving injections, performing treatments, preparing patients for medical examinations and surgical

procedures, and recording information in the patient's medical record.

Licensed practical nurses can specialize in areas such as pediatrics (children), obstetrics (pregnancy and childbirth), and geriatrics (elder care). With additional training, employment in the operating room is also possible. Long-term care settings are common employment sites for LPNs, and opportunities to work in home health are increasing. LPNs are required to practice under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician.

Licensed Practical Nurse Facts:

Where do licensed practical nurses work in Alaska?

Licensed practical nurses have a variety of employment opportunities in rural Alaska. As in urban settings, they find employment anywhere that physicians and registered nurses work. Examples include clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation units, and public health offices.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in English, science, and math.
- Completion of a 11 to 18-month licensed practical nurse course in a vocational school, college, or university.
- Successful completion of the NCLEX-PN examination for licensure.
- An increasing number of LPNs are advancing their nursing career by completing an associate or bachelor's degree in nursing and taking the licensing examination for registered nurses.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$16.09-\$29.16 (Mean \$22.65)
*based on Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

AVTEC has an 11 month certificate program for practical nursing preparation. For more information, contact:

Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC)

Allied Health Department

Phone: (907) 334-2230

Toll free: (800) 478-5389

Web site: <http://www.avtec.edu/LPN.htm>

National Contacts:

The National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service (NAPNES)

Phone: (703) 933-1003

Website: <http://www.napnes.org/>

NAPNES publishes the "Journal of Practical Nursing" and offers some certifications for LPNs.

National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses (NFLPN)

Phone: (919) 779-0046

Web site: <http://www.nflpn.org/index.html>

NFLPN publishes "Practical Nursing Journal" and offers some certifications for LPNs.

