**Important Note on Sources of Information**

Unless otherwise identified, all information comes from the most recent California Cooperative Occupational Information System (CCOIS) survey for that occupation, from Employment Development Department (EDD) records, or from local Fresno County Workforce Investment Board research. Differences in information exist because of the use of a variety of sources, i.e., data about wages, training providers, and programs will sometimes change. Understanding these constraints, a substantial effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the information. Additional CCOIS information for Fresno County, or any other area in the state, can be found on the EDD Web site, published as an Occupational Outlook Report (OOR): www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/ccois/oor.htm.

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**CONNECTING FOR SUCCESS**

**Licensed Vocational Nurse Career Ladder**

**REGISTERED NURSE**

**LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE**

**NURSE AIDE**

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**

**OCCUPATIONS WITH SIMILAR SKILLS**

- Surgical Technician
- Respiratory Therapist

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**DESCRIPTION**

Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions. May work under the supervision of a registered nurse. Licensing required.

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**NATURE OF WORK**

Most Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) provide basic bedside care. They take vital signs such as temperature, blood pressure, pulse, and respiration. They also treat bedsores, prepare and give injections and enemas, apply dressings, give alcohol rubs and massages, apply ice packs and hot water bottles, and monitor catheters. LVNs observe patients and report adverse reactions to medications or treatments. They collect samples for testing, perform routine laboratory tests, feed patients, and record food and fluid intake and output. They help patients with bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene, keep them comfortable, and care for their emotional needs.

LVNs often stand for long periods and help patients move in bed, stand, or walk. They are subject to back injuries when moving patients and shock from electrical equipment, and may face hazards from caustic chemicals, radiation, and infectious diseases such as hepatitis. They often must deal with the stress of heavy workloads. In addition, the patients they care for may be confused, irrational, agitated, or uncooperative.
CONNECTING FOR SUCCESS
Licensed Vocational Nurse Career Ladder

**Wages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New</th>
<th>3 Years With Firm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>$10.90</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>$14.50</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The “Low” and “High” wages of employees shows the range of all earnings. It does not separate earnings based upon the experience levels of the employees. The “Median” range of earnings is based upon experienced workers.

**Pre-employment Screening**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>METHODS USED</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug Testing Required?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Exam Required?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DMV Printout Required?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background Check Required?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This information represents major employers surveyed from this occupation.

**Requirements**

**Education** A candidate for Licensed Vocational Nurse should be a graduate of a professional or military vocational nursing program in an approved school of vocational nursing, and pass the state license exam.

Nursing education includes supervised clinical experience in hospitals and other health facilities. Supervised clinical experience is provided in hospital departments and in nursing homes, public health departments, home health agencies, and ambulatory clinics.

**License or Certification** An application fee of $50 and a fingerprint-processing fee of $56 are required for the licensure examinations. Additional fees of $88 for examination and $75 for license are assessed.

**Skills**

*Reading Comprehension*—Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work-related documents.

*Active Listening*—Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

*Writing*—Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.

*Time Management*—Managing one’s own time and the time of others.

*Critical Thinking*—Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems.

*Monitoring*—Monitoring/assessing performance or yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

**Schools**

- California State University, Fresno
- Fresno City College
- Reedley College

**Employers**

- Nursing and Personal Care Facilities
- Hospitals
- Home Health Care Services
- Skilled Nursing Care Facilities
- Offices and Clinics of Medical Doctors

**Language Skills** Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar. Ability to communicate effectively with patients and coworkers.

**Math Skills** Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.

**Reasoning Ability** Apply principles of rational systems to solve practical problems and deal with a variety of concrete variables in situations where only limited standardization exists. Interpret a variety of instructions furnished in written, oral, diagrammatic, or schedule form.

**Physical Demand** Frequently lift or carry weights from 25 pounds up to 50 pounds.

**Computer Skills** Word processing, spreadsheet, and/or database skills. The ability to use basic and in-house programs.