



Pre-Webinar Information



Overview of Nursing Careers

Nurses play a critical role in patient care, offering both medical expertise and compassionate support. Halifax Community College offers programs for various nursing roles, including:

- **Associate Degree Nursing (ADN):** Prepares students for RN licensure and entry-level nursing positions in various healthcare settings.
- **Practical Nursing (PN):** Prepares students for LPN licensure, working in long-term care, rehabilitation, and outpatient facilities.
- **Nurse Aide (NA):** Provides foundational skills for assisting nurses with patient care in hospitals, nursing homes, and home health settings.
- **Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP):** Financial aid for those aiming to become nursing faculty.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think a nurse's role entails on a typical day?

- This question assesses participants' understanding of nursing responsibilities such as patient care, medication administration, and health assessments.

2. Why is empathy essential in nursing?

- Encourages students to reflect on the importance of interpersonal skills in patient care, in addition to clinical expertise.

3. What are some challenges nurses might face during their shifts?

- Helps students think critically about issues like long hours, emotional stress, and maintaining patient safety under pressure.

4. What skills do you think are essential for a successful nursing career?

- Explores key skills such as communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving in healthcare settings.

5. How do you think a nursing career can evolve over time?

- Prompts discussion on career progression in nursing, such as becoming a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or moving into healthcare administration.

Activities

1. Career Pathway Mapping

- Have students create a flowchart or timeline that shows career advancement opportunities in nursing. This could include roles such as RN, BSN, MSN, and Nurse Practitioner, along with the necessary education and certifications.

2. Skills Matching Activity

- Provide a list of essential nursing skills (e.g., administering medication, patient assessment, wound care). Have students match these skills to tasks nurses perform in different healthcare settings.

3. Role-Playing Interview

- Pair students and have one act as a nursing student preparing for a job interview, while the other acts as a healthcare employer. The nursing student asks questions about the profession, and the employer provides guidance based on research. This helps prepare questions for the guest speaker during the webinar.

Nursing Program Overview

Job Titles	Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Nurse Aide (NA)
Skills Required	Patient care, administering medication, clinical assessments, teamwork, and communication. <i>Sources: American Nurses Association (ANA) and North Carolina Board of Nursing.</i>
Responsibilities	Nurses assess patients, provide care, administer medications, and assist with medical procedures under the supervision of a physician.
Work Environment	Hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, home health care, and schools.
Local Employers	ECU Health (formerly Vidant Health), Nash UNC Health Care, and local clinics and nursing homes. <i>Sources: General industry knowledge and regional healthcare employment trends.</i>
Median Pay Range in NC	RN: \$35/hour LPN: \$22/hour NA: \$14/hour
Education and Certification	RN (ADN Program): Associate's degree and passing the NCLEX-RN exam for licensure. LPN (PN Program): Completion of a Practical Nursing program and passing the NCLEX-PN exam for licensure. NA: Completion of a Nurse Aide program and passing the state certification exam. <i>Source: North Carolina Board of Nursing.</i>
Career Growth	Nurses can pursue advanced degrees to become Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Managers, or Nurse Educators. Opportunities also exist in healthcare leadership and specialty nursing fields. <i>Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and Occupational Outlook for Nurses.</i>
Impact on Patient Care	Nurses are essential to patient health and recovery, providing critical care and monitoring patient outcomes.
Challenges	High patient-to-nurse ratios, emotional stress, long shifts, and balancing clinical tasks with patient empathy. <i>Sources: American Nurses Association (ANA) and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).</i>