

# LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

Licensed practical nurses are responsible for providing care for the sick, the injured, the convalescent, and the disabled under the direction of a physician or registered nurse.



Employment opportunities in the health care field are currently at an exceptionally high level. No matter what the state of the economy, the demand for health care professionals will continue to grow. Individuals can start in entry-level occupations and advance their careers while enjoying the stability of employment. Also, individuals can start at the mid or advanced levels, depending on their education, training, and career goals. At each of the levels, there are many opportunities for more challenging and higher paying positions.

## SAGINAW VALLEY

Each ladder depicts a series of work experiences that leads to more challenging and higher paying opportunities. While every level of the ladder can provide a satisfying job, some employees will choose to gain even more skills and responsibilities that will advance them in their careers. To do so, they will need more education, training, and work experiences. Some jobs will require a certificate, a license, or an advanced degree.

CLIMBING THE CAREER LADDER

### ADVANCED LEVEL

Associate's, bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree required; must graduate from an accredited program; must obtain license or certification

**Registered Nurse**  
\$19.30-\$27.64/hour

**Pharmacists**  
\$31.83-\$41.95/hour

### MID LEVEL

Associate's degree or graduation from an accredited program required; must obtain a license or certification

**Licensed Practical Nurse**  
\$12.71-\$17.81/hour

**Paramedic**  
\$10.30-\$18.04/hour

### ENTRY LEVEL

Most occupations require a high school diploma or a graduate equivalency diploma (GED), three to six months training, and knowledge of medical terminology; certification is required in some of the occupations

**Nursing Aide,  
Orderly, and Attendant**  
\$8.06-\$11.39/hour

**Emergency Medical  
Technician**  
\$7.73-\$10.30/hour

**Pharmacy Technician**  
\$8.74-\$13.19/hour

Wages will vary within this occupation based on the employee's education, training, and years of experience.

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Each occupation is described in terms of specific tasks and typical job duties.

### A LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE MUST BE ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate the ability to perform nursing intervention skills within an accepted scope of practice
- Assess, report, and document patient status
- Demonstrate effective communication skills with patients, family, visitors, and staff
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills and good judgement
- Be able to listen with empathy
- Exchange information on factual matters and set priorities
- Organize and prioritize delegated tasks
- Behave in a manner that is positive and cooperative
- Work as a health care team member

## WAGES

Wage information was obtained from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth and from local employers to give a general idea of the wages and salaries for this occupation.

## WAGE RANGE

\$12.71-\$17.81/hour

## WORKING CONDITIONS

Most licensed practical nurses work in hospitals and in nursing care facilities. Because patients need around-the-clock care, some nurses work nights, weekends, and holidays. They often stand for long periods of time and help patients move in bed, stand, or walk.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Courses, programs, and certificates that are needed for employment are offered by local education and training providers.



### HIGH SCHOOL

- Completion of high school's Health Sciences Career Pathway requirements and/or appropriate career and technical education classes
- Algebra
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Career studies, such as the medical careers program at the Saginaw Career Complex or health technology/medical science or the nursing assistant/health careers program at the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center
- Co-op experience
- Volunteer experience in a health care environment

### COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Delta College: associate's degree in nursing program

### UNIVERSITY

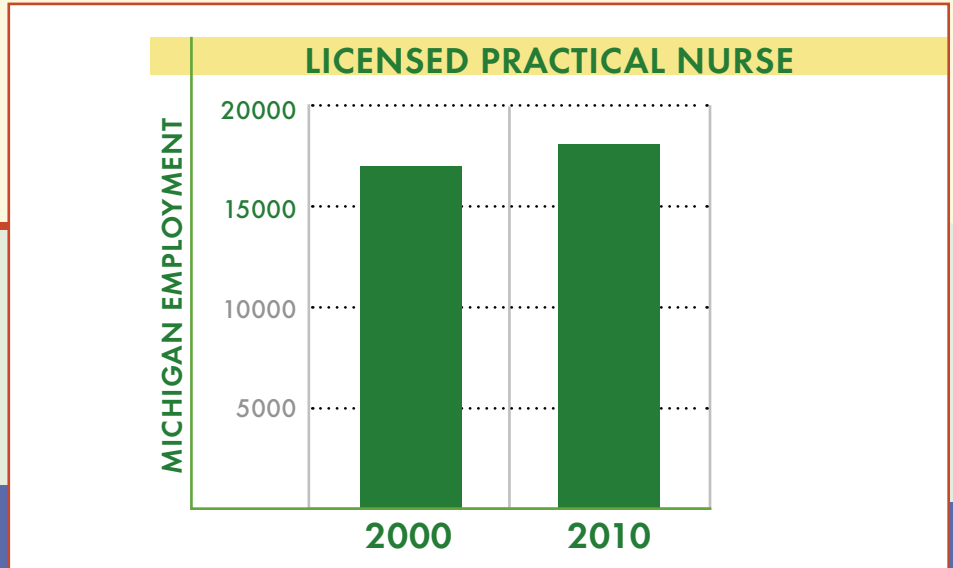
- Davenport University: licensed practical nurse certificate; associate's in applied science

### LOCAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

- Local school districts
- Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center
- Saginaw Career Complex
- Delta College
- Davenport University
- Latoya's Health Education Treatment & Training Center

# JOB OUTLOOK

The rate of growth within this occupation is projected by data from local employers and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.



## ADVANCEMENT

Experienced licensed practical nurses may supervise nursing assistants and aides. With more education and training, licensed practical nurses can become registered nurses.

## WHAT THE EMPLOYER SAID



### WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A POTENTIAL EMPLOYEE FOR THIS POSITION?

"We look for someone who is caring and compassionate; who has the ability to listen with empathy; who can communicate well with the patients, their families, visitors, and staff. The employee must also be knowledgeable in how to provide direct patient care."

Donna Wissmueller, chief nursing officer  
Saint Mary's

# STAR PROFILE

This interview is intended to show you what is needed to be a star employee.



**EMPLOYEE:**  
**MICHELLE WILSON**

**OCCUPATION:**  
**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE**

**COMPANY:**  
**SAINT MARY'S**

## TELL US HOW YOU ATTAINED YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

I was a hairdresser for several years and then I was in a car accident that left me unable to continue in that line of work. I decided to go back to school and started working in the emergency room. I trained to be a licensed practical nurse. The waiting list for nursing was long, so while I waited, I worked as an emergency department technician, in admitting, and in diagnosis and coding. I graduated from Delta College, and then I went to work for a doctor's office for about a year but came back to Saint Mary's. I am now working in the heart unit.

## DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY.

Most of my shifts are 12 hours and I start at 7 a.m. I work with nearly a dozen patients each day. I provide basic care for my patients. I also monitor my patients and report adverse reactions to medications or treatments. And, I help them with instructions for care at home so, hopefully, they don't have to return to the hospital. When my tasks are done, I talk with my patients and make sure they are comfortable.

## WHAT QUALITIES MAKE SOMEONE A "STAR" IN THIS OCCUPATION?

Star employees are advocates and champions for the patient. They ask lots of questions because they are searching for answers to find out what is really going on for the patient. Nurses need to be dedicated and work hard every day.

## WHAT TRAINING AND EDUCATION DID YOU NEED TO ENTER THIS POSITION?

I had to be a graduate of an accredited school of practical nursing.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST/LEAST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

There are several aspects to my job that I really like. I like the people I work with. I also like helping patients. I like learning something new every day. I like being busy all of the time. I like having contact with people. There really isn't anything that I like least, but sometimes I wish that I didn't have such a heavy work load.

## WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE SOMEONE SEEKING A JOB IN YOUR FIELD?

When you go through the nursing program, be dedicated, study, and work hard.

## ARE THERE ANY LICENSES OR CERTIFICATIONS NEEDED FOR YOUR POSITION?

To be a licensed practical nurse, you must maintain current Michigan licensure as a practical nurse.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Career Ladders project began as a Saginaw County Vision 2020 initiative. To date, more than 300 individuals have been involved in the project. It is impossible to list them all, but the Comprehensive Education and Workforce Development Committee appreciates each one and the incredible participation by our major employers and educational institutions, as well as the support from the Arnold and Gertrude Boutell Memorial Fund, The Dow Chemical Company, The Dow Corning Foundation, the Fordney Club, the Hospital Council of East Central Michigan, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the National Tooling and Machining Association – Saginaw Valley Chapter, the Saginaw Community Foundation, the Saginaw County Business and Education Partnership, the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Saginaw County's local school districts, Saginaw County's Promise, the Saginaw County Vision 2020, the Saginaw Future Inc., the Saginaw/Midland/Bay Michigan Works!, the Saginaw Township Business Association, the Saginaw Valley Manufacturers' Association, and the Saginaw Valley Tech Prep Partnership. We also want to thank NOVA for their guidance.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/PROGRAM. AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.