

Career Choices in Nursing

Comparisons

U.S. Army Registered Nurse

Civilian Registered Nurse

Pay

Annual salary starting at about \$29,000 (dependent on where you live) with yearly raises. This does not include travel pay and variable cost of living pay. Approximately 1/3 of your pay is non-taxable.

Assuming that you can find a full time job immediately after college, your salary will depend on location.

Benefits

Medical and dental benefits for you and your family with minimal deductions from your paycheck. Inexpensive life insurance.

Expense is usually shared with employer to include a deductible that must be met.

Vacation

30 days paid vacation every year, not including federal holidays.

2 weeks if you work fulltime. Dependant on the hospital.

Where do you work

Historically, you get one of three choices from 26 medical treatment facilities around the world including Germany, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Entry level jobs are usually in nursing homes or on the night shift.

Position

You are a staff nurse in addition to being an officer in the United States Army with the respect and responsibility that goes with each position. Most importantly, you are a leader.

Staff Nurse

Job

Perform the duties of a nurse and manage medical technicians.

Depending on the staffing, you may have additional duties besides nursing. I.e. Housekeeping

Environment

Excellent doctor nurse relationship. Eventually, you may outrank the doctor you work with. 34% male and 66% female nursing population.

Non-collegial doctor nurse relationship. 15% male and 85% female ratio in most hospitals.

Specialty Training

Fully funded training of your choice in one of five specialty nursing areas after one year of experience.

Some hospitals offer additional training on your own time.

Graduate School Opportunities

Opportunity for full scholarship to graduate school with regular pay. At a minimum there is a 75% reimbursement for graduate courses.

Scholarships and assistance are sometimes offered to limited numbers of individuals.

Promotion Potential

Nurses get promoted to Captain (approx.\$53,000 annually) at the four year mark. Army nurses make considerably more money than their civilian counterparts at this rank.

Promotions are difficult to attain. They are based on availability, performance, and experience.

Commitment

Four years as a nurse with the option to continue your career in the Army.

You may not have a commitment to the hospital, but the hospital also has no commitment to you.