Nursing Career

Name

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My name is Jessica Carmon, and I plan on becoming a registered nurse. Ever since I was a little girl, I’ve always enjoyed playing doctor with my toy dolls and pretending to help them feel better. I also use to watch medical shows growing up, so it introduced me to the medical field. It caught my interest, and I told myself that becoming a nurse was what I was supposed to do when I graduate high school. I took an assessment online and it proved to me, that my top five strengths are harmony, developer, restorative, futuristic, and positivity (Clifton Strengths, 2019). My strengths will help me through college, and throughout my whole career because I am futuristic. It means that I constantly think about the future, which will help guide me on becoming a registered nurse. I am also restorative, and good at trying to find out what is wrong to resolve the problem. To be able to have this as one of my best strengths, my career as a registered nurse will be a passion of mine for the rest of my life.

**Job Responsibilities**

Registered nurses make up to $71,730 a year nationally. The employment of RN’S is predicted to grow twelve percent from 2018 to 2028 (The Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). This means that it is much faster than the average for any occupation. Finding a job as a nurse anywhere in the U.S, I am going to be able to find a lot of openings for RN’s in my future. Typically, nurses take care of their patients, and teaches their patients or the general public, about varies health conditions. They can work in clinics, hospitals, healthcare services, etc. The required education to become a registered nurse can be an associate’s degree in nursing, a Bachelor’s degree in nursing, or a diploma from an approved nursing program. When I receive my associates degree, I am capable of finding a job as a RN, while trying to obtain my bachelor’s degree to better my chances of finding a location I would like to work at. Other than having a degree, nurses need to have a license in order to interact with real patients.

**Job Responsibilities in Houston**

RN’s in Houston make $79,652 annually. Employment Projections for nurses are increasing every year, until 2028 (Career Coach, 2019). RN’s in hospitals throughout Houston maintain accurate patient’s records, information and vital signs. They also prepare rooms for the doctors or surgeons, administer the medications for patients if needed, monitor the patients for any side effects, and report symptoms of the patients condition. Besides patient care, they can also prepare sterile instruments for a procedure or surgery. In order to become a registered nurse, first you have to attend college, and receive an Associate’s degree, and start off from there. You can also start off with a bachelor’s degree (Career Coach, 2019). It is necessary that nurses take the NCLEX exam and have a license to work with patients.

**Lifestyle**

As stated in Texas Reality Check, I need to make $65,265 annually in order to live the lifestyle I desire in the future (Texas Reality Check, 2019). I would like to live in a two-bedroom apartment because it’s located near restaurants, stores or highways. I would also like to have internet to stream movies on my T.V or, hang out with my friends at the movies, and going out for dinner after. The annual salary for registered nurses is $79,911, which is more than the national average (Texas Reality Check, 2019). This means that I would be able to live the way I want to, in the future. In addition, I will have extra funding left-over. What I want to do is save the extra money for emergencies, or just use the money to help my mom with anything she needs, just like she did for me.

**Expected Expenses**

Anyone not living in Houston, won’t understand how big of a city we actually are. I was born and raised in Houston, and I never left Texas before. I want to move to a different location to explore new places, and see something new, so I would like to move to another city that is a little less crowded, but in a city that snows in the winters, and that isn’t extremely humid in the summers. There are a couple cities in mind, but my top two cities I would move to in a heartbeat, would be Hampton, Virginia, Seattle, Washington or, Hampton snows every year, and it is located near the beach when its summertime and the air is warm, and sunny. In order for me to maintain the lifestyle I want; I need to make at least $79,492 a year (CNN Money Calculator, 2019). Housing is 1% more in Virginia meanwhile, utilities are 7% less, transportation is 4% less and healthcare is 2% less. Groceries are around the same price, so there is not a percentage. Sadly, I cannot say the same for Seattle, Washington. It is way more expensive compared to Houston, because housing is 146% more. Groceries are 46% more also. I have to make $132,148 a year, in order to live comfortably in Seattle, which means it is a $50,000 difference (CNN Money Calculator). My career as a registered nurse depends on location because my salary cannot be expandable. I would rather live in Virginia, which is such a beautiful city, and is also affordable.

**Volunteering**

Because I started working when I was 15, I was able to determine a few of my soft skills, which is teamwork, adaptability, and communication skills. Volunteering at a hospital to take care of sick babies, has been on my bucket list for some time, volunteering at a veterinary clinic to help with animals, and at a homeless shelter to help distribute food and clothing are a few more things on my list I want to complete. As I look online for open positions at any location in Houston that are looking for volunteers, I found out that Ronald McDonald Family room Volunteers at MD Anderson are looking for people to help out the hospital staff with stocking up supplies, cleaning rooms, and helping out in the kitchen with the parents and children to provide support, and have a connection with the families. Another open position is located at the Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital. We are supposed to help check in with families who have sick children, and are being treated in the ICU’s, making sure that it is clean, and stocked with supplies, and baking goods for them to snack on when they are hungry and aren’t able to leave the room( Volunteer Match, 2019). These opportunities that are available to me will allow me to introduce myself with people that work at hospitals and can further my chances of getting a job in the nursing field.

**Long-Term Goals**

 Becoming a registered nurse and working at a hospital, is my long-term career goal. I will be a RN by 2025. First I need to attend college and take the required courses to earn a Bachelor’s degree, next I need to take the NCLEX-RN in order for me to qualify as an RN, and lastly I need to receive a license from Texas to become a certified RN. Some of the obstacles I will face is stress from studying, loud distractions, and keeping my grades above a 95. To avoid these obstacles, I will find a way to de-stress myself by drinking tea or taking a nap, finding a location with no loud or visible distractions, such as a library or an empty room and learning the best way to study my homework to earn a good grade. Once I complete my long-term career goal, I will feel proud of myself for working hard on what I’ve been wanting to do since I was a kid. That feeling will come once I see that I have my own apartment with my pet dog, husband and child, favorite furniture and getting excited to go to work.

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