Western Kentucky University
TopSCHOLAR®

Undergraduate Research Award | University Experience/University Libraries

12-11-2012

Career Exploration Assignment [Nursing]

Chelsea Pitts
Western Kentucky University, chelsea.pitts366@topper.wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ueul_award

Part of the Nursing Commons

Recommended Citation
Pitts, Chelsea, "Career Exploration Assignment [Nursing]" (2012). *Undergraduate Research Award.* Paper 10.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ueul_award/10

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Undergraduate Research Award by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact connie.foster@wku.edu.

Chelsea Pitts

Mrs. Cunningham

Career Exploration Assignment

My mother became a Registered Nurse three years ago. She has told me about it and the things she has to do. This career began to interest me more and more as she would tell me about it. I have decided to go down this career path and I plan on too, becoming a RN.

Some of the things my mother has told me seem to be true according to the information I have researched and some doesn't agree with what she says. Also some of my research from different sources does not agree with one another. It all varies but this is what I have found.

My mother told me that I would always be able to find a job if I became a Registered Nurse. She said the job outlook was great. This proved to be true in the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* and also in The Nursing *Career Planning Guide*. The Occupational Outlook Handbook states that nursing jobs from 2010 -2020 will grow by 22 percent. Also the Nursing Career Planning Guide talks about how there has been a nurse shortage. It tells of how women now get to explore other areas in the medical field that a while back ago only men were brave enough to venture. So all in all I will more than likely be able to find a nursing job fairly easy when I get my degree.

I have always heard from everyone that nursing pays well. I decided to take a look myself and find out exactly what nurses were getting paid these days. I came to find out that the *Nursing License Map* states that a RN's salary is somewhere around $60,000 a year. *The Occupational Outlook Handbook* states that nurses only get paid around $40,000 a year. Even though the numbers are slightly different, I can live with either one of the salaries. My mother makes around 40,000 a year here in Kentucky, so I believe it just varies across the US.

Upon searching for information concerning the job outlook for nurses and their pay, I came across a work that compares the two. I figured if there was this so called "nursing shortage" then wouldn't that mean that in order to fill positions the wages would increase? According to The Institute for Women's Policy Research, the wages didn't increase as expected. They did about 10% across the US. Today the hourly nurse wage ranges from about $19.00 to $34.00. Wages are increasing every year also. I also have room for advancement and could further my schooling if I didn't like the pay.

In my research and findings about nursing, the results were typical and what I expected them to be. I am somewhat happy about this because I feel as though I have a good grip on my nursing career and see a bright future in it. I still plan on being a nurse and I am glad I took this opportunity to explore it even more.

Works Cited

- *Nursing License Map Web Page.* Georgetown Nursing. 2009. Web. 23 Oct 2012
- Turner, Susan. *The Nursing Career Planning Guide.* Massachusetts: Jones and Bartlett Publishing, 2007. Print.
- Bureau of Labor Statistics*."* Job Outlook.*" Occupational Outlook Handbook*. US Department of Labor. 29 March. 2012. Web. 23 Oct. 2012
- Lovell, Vicky. "Solving the Nursing Shortage through Higher Wages." IWPR Web Page. Institute for Women's Policy Research. 2007. Web. 23 Oct. 2012