

Nursing Career Route Guide

NAME _____ DATE _____ PERIOD _____

Read the label before you compare

The pay figures below are **May 2024 U.S. medians from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)**. A median is the middle wage. These figures are not starting pay and are not DFW-localized. In Xello, record a local figure only when the screen shows the geography, date, and type of pay.

Four nursing-related routes

CAREER	COMMON PREPARATION ROUTE	MAY 2024 U.S. MEDIAN	ONE COMMON RESPONSIBILITY
Nursing assistant	State-approved education program; state competency or certification requirements vary	\$39,530	Measure vital signs and report patient concerns to a nurse
LVN	State-approved vocational nursing program, typically about 1 year, then licensure	\$62,340	Provide basic medical care and document patient status
RN	Approved nursing program through an associate, bachelor's, or diploma route, then RN licensure	\$93,600	Assess patients, coordinate care, and monitor equipment
Nurse practitioner	RN preparation plus graduate education and advanced-practice licensure	\$129,210	Assess, diagnose, and manage patient care within state scope

Important: These jobs do not have identical scopes of practice. More education changes responsibility, not only pay.

Texas route check

Texas students should verify that a vocational or registered nursing program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing before enrolling. Graduates of approved programs apply for the appropriate licensure examination. LVN graduates use the NCLEX-PN route; RN graduates use the NCLEX-RN route.

Irving ISD connection

FYF pp. 84-85 are the district-customized instructional snapshot for Health Science program, IBC, equipment, and experience examples. The current Singley Academy webpage separately lists **Nursing Science** in the School of Health Science. Keep each label attached to its source. Neither source promises that every student earns a particular credential.

Use Xello for current local information

1. Open Xello through ClassLink.
2. Search the exact career name.
3. Open the salary or job outlook section.
4. Record the geography, date, and pay measure shown.
5. If Xello has no exact match, keep the BLS national median and label it correctly.

The Nursing Route Comparison is the writing organizer. This guide stays beside it as the evidence source, so students do not have to copy the full reference table before they can compare the routes.

Quick language guide

- **preparation:** education, training, and practice before entering the work
- **licensure:** legal permission from a state board to practice a regulated profession
- **median:** the middle wage in a group, not starting pay or a promise
- **responsibility:** work the person is expected and authorized to do
- **trade-off:** a benefit that comes with a cost, limit, or unanswered question

Sources checked August 6, 2026

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook: Nursing Assistants and Orderlies; Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses; Registered Nurses; Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners
- Texas Board of Nursing: Formal Education Programs for Students; Licensure by Examination
- Irving ISD: Singley Academy CTE pathways