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So, you’re wondering if a career in nursing is right for you? Well, here are a few questions that may help you decide. When someone hurts themselves at work, are you the first person to the first aid kit? Do you want to become a highly respected person and an active participant within your community?

“Compassion, patience and communication are qualities every prospective nurse will demonstrate.”

Compassion, patience and communication are qualities every prospective nurse will demonstrate. Nursing has consistently been regarded as the most honest and ethical profession in Australia for many years.

You may have had experience in a health care setting. Perhaps you have a family member or friend who is a nurse or you have a passion to help people in their hour of need. Whatever the reason for wanting to pursue a career in nursing, you have the power to reach your goals.

This eBook will provide you with the information you need to know about nursing: from how to get started, to the skills required, plus exclusive insight into the day-to-day life within the nursing industry. Your journey as an unsung hero of health care starts here.
NURSING CAREER
AN OVERVIEW

THEN

First, a quick history lesson. Nursing as a profession can be traced back to the early Christian era. However, even in earlier and more primitive societies, it was the role of a caregiver to care for the sick. Traditionally this role was assigned to females, although medical assistance was also provided by shamans and medicine men.

Naturally, there was no formal education available for those whose duty it was to tend to the sick, so the earliest nurses learned their craft through traditions passed from generation to generation. Most of the time, caregivers would simply learn by the process of trial and error.

“Today, nurses are medical professionals of the highest calibre”

NOW

Luckily, in the 21st century, prospective nurses have no need to resort to such haphazard learning methods. With the constant advancement of medical science, researchers learn more each day about the human body, and how best to treat and care for it. This information is the foundation stone which a career in nursing is built. Today, nurses are medical professionals of the highest calibre, armed with the skills and knowledge to perform their job to the utmost standard.

Nurses are on the front line in the battle against illness and injury. They provide care, comfort and help to meet the basic needs of patients from all walks of life. They are the providers of information for health promotion and prevention.
THE OPTIONS
ENROLLED NURSE OR REGISTERED NURSE

There are many kinds of nurses you will come across in hospitals and medical facilities around Australia; Enrolled Nurses and Registered Nurses are the two most common. In terms of study, there is a significant difference between the two. To become an Enrolled Nurse, a HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing must be completed, whereas to gain employment as a Registered Nurse, a Bachelor of Nursing needs to be completed and will generally require an enrolment into a university.

However many students choose to study the HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing to become an Enrolled Nurse so that they can work in the industry while studying to become a Registered Nurse at university. You will also get credit points toward your university degree if you complete the diploma first.

Some major differences in terms of practicalities are the supervisory requirements and role expectations placed on Enrolled Nurses, as opposed to Registered Nurses. An Enrolled Nurse generally must work under the supervision of a Registered Nurse. Other differences between these roles are determined by scope of practice. As you embark on your career your scope of practice is determined by the policies of your workplace, as well as your experience within your professional career.

“A very large majority, 92% of Australians aged 14 and over rate nurses as the most ethical and honest profession – the 22nd year in a row since nurses were first included on the survey.”

Roy Morgan Research

NURSES
MAKE UP THE MAJORITY OF EMPLOYEES IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES AROUND AUSTRALIA

IN JUNE 2014, MALES MADE UP 10.47% OF THE TOTAL NURSING WORKFORCE IN AUSTRALIA

NURSES EVEN HAVE THEIR OWN DAY! INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY, HELD ON 12 MAY

LINDA RICHARDS BECAME THE FIRST NURSE TO EARN A NURSING DIPLOMA IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1873

IN TANZANIA, THERE ARE ONLY 4 NURSES AND MIDWIVES PER 10,000 PEOPLE

REGISTERED NURSE CAME IN AT #6 ON MONEY’S 100 BEST JOBS LIST OF 2014

NURSING IS A GLOBAL PROFESSION, WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK OVERSEAS
THE PERSON
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SUCCEED?
So what do you need to bring to the table? Here are some qualities you will need to succeed in the world of nursing:

- Interpersonal Skills
- Empathy
- Communication Skills
- Emotional Stability
- Flexibility
- Patience
- Physical Endurance
- Dedication
- Respect
- Attention to Detail

Don’t worry if you are wondering whether or not you possess these admirable traits: your studies and training will ensure you develop these skills, so that you are prepared for workplace situations.
“Nursing is a very hands-on career and practicing the skills nurses utilise on a daily basis is paramount during study.”

**THE EXPERIENCE**

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ENROLLED NURSE**

Let’s say you’ve chosen to study the HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing. After 18 months or 24 months of hard work, study and loads of coffee, you’ve graduated and found a job as an Enrolled Nurse. So, what exactly would you be doing all day? Here’s an example, based on the daily routine of a real-life, experienced nurse in a hospital:

**START OF SHIFT**

You receive handover of the patients you will be looking after.

You introduce yourself to your patients and ensure that they are comfortable.

You review your charts to plan your day.

You commence a medication round, administering medications where necessary.

After doing the rounds, it’s time for ‘Obs’ or observations. This would usually include general assessments of patients, noting their current condition, completing personal cares of your patients and ensuring that they are comfortable and all their needs are being met.

The final task before you head home to a relaxing herbal bath is the comprehensive paperwork and documentation.

**END OF SHIFT**

Then it’s time for another medication round before assisting patients with their meals.

During your shift, you will be constantly liaising with a Registered Nurse and following any instructions they give.

Following that, you would be communicating with doctors and specialists. This is where your interpersonal skills really get tested: consulting with patients’ family members.

Of course, this is just a snapshot of one possible career in nursing and highlights the importance of practical learning, whether you’re studying at TAFE or university. Nursing is a very hands-on career and practicing the skills nurses utilise on a daily basis is paramount during study.
WHERE CAN YOU GO WITH NURSING?

A range of study options means a range of career options. Here are just some examples of career prospects for nursing graduates:

- Correctional Enrolled Nurse
- Paediatric Enrolled Nurse
- Enrolled Nurse
  With possibility of progressing to Advanced Practice Enrolled Nursing
- Cruiseline Medical staff
- Intensive Care/Emergency Enrolled Nurse
- Paramedical opportunities
- Sporting Medical Staff
- School Nurse
"As in any pursuit, the best way to learn is by doing."

These subjects have been designed in close consultation with professionals from within the nursing industry to impart you with comprehensive knowledge of what you will need to work within the industry.

As in any pursuit, the best way to learn is by doing. At TAFE Queensland, you will have our industry-leading nursing labs at your disposal, including electric beds, ECG machines, vital signs monitors, I.V. trolleys and simulator mannequins, as well as other mannequins. It really is the closest thing to working in a real-life health care setting, allowing you the opportunity to learn the fundamentals within a fully functional, simulated working environment. You will also gain first-hand experience in administering medications, allowing you to gain the confidence you need to step into any health care facility.

The HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing is a perfect example of combining theoretical and practical learning. It aims to develop your skills in providing care for patients, and that’s exactly what you’ll be doing during your vocational work placement. You’ll be undertaking full-time placement in blocks of 2-4 weeks, equating to a minimum of 400 hours within a health care facility in your local area. In some cases you may need to travel up to an hour from your home depending on the availability of placement. Perhaps the most invaluable component of the course, the placement will help to hone your practical skills, giving you the confidence to perform your duties as an Enrolled Nurse, or embark on further study.

**THE COURSE**

**WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?**

So now you know what it takes, here’s something to give you a taste of what you’ll be immersing yourself in. In terms of theoretical learning, here are some examples of topics you will cover:

- Administering and Monitoring Medication
- Wound Management
- Communication
- Health Assessments
- Caring for Patients with Acute and Chronic Health Problems
- Workplace Health and Safety
- Performing Fundamental and Complex Nursing Procedures
- Administering Intravenous Medication
- Observation, Critical Thinking and Researching
- Complex Nursing Procedures
THE STUDY
LEARNING THE ART OF NURSING
A range of study options are offered to help you enter the world of nursing. The HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing mixed mode (off campus) provides unprecedented flexibility for students. Imagine being able to pursue your dream job in nursing without compromising your lifestyle. We give you that opportunity.

If you choose to study the HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing mixed mode (off campus) you also have to attend one mandatory Residential School per semester – these residential schools run for a maximum of two weeks. You are also required to undertake a minimum of 400 hours of vocational placement in a health facility in your community within one hour travel time from your home address throughout the course.

Upon successful completion of the Diploma, you may be eligible for registration as an Enrolled Nurse with the AHPRA (Australian Health Practitioners Registration Authority). This means you can dive straight into working within the health care sector.

However if your goal is to become a Registered Nurse, completion of the HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing will already have you on the path. Graduates will gain study credit towards a Registered Nursing Program with most leading universities throughout Queensland.

STUDIOSITY
ONLINE SUPPORT
TAFE Queensland students have free access to the online after hours support service, Studiosity. Through Studiosity, you can chat online to expert tutors who can help you with your studies, writing, research and referencing. They can also help with specific subject questions including maths, chemistry, biology, physics, statistics, microeconomics, macroeconomics, marketing and accounting. Once enrolled, you will be given instructions on how to access this service. Studiosity is your learning support safety net.
THE OPTIONS

UPSKILL AND RELATED COURSES
On the subject of upskilling, graduates of the HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing also have the option of expanding their knowledge of the nursing industry. There are a number of other options offered to Enrolled Nurses to enhance their professional development.

THE PATHWAYS

UNIVERSITY
As mentioned earlier, studying nursing at TAFE Queensland can open pathways to further study at universities across Australia. A Bachelor of Nursing is an intensive university course that will enable students to work as a Registered Nurse upon completion. By first completing a HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing, graduates will have a solid nursing foundation and significant credit towards the more intensive university degree as well as the ability to work as an Enrolled Nurse whilst completing their Registered Nursing qualification at University. Study at TAFE will also enable students to get first-hand experience and see what it would be like to work in the real world of nursing. Graduates will be well-equipped to pursue alternative nursing careers, such as midwifery and management.

RAMSAY HEALTH CARE

PARTNERSHIP
TAFE Queensland has partnered with Ramsay Health Care, Australia’s largest private hospital operator and one of the top five hospital operators in the world. With this partnership, you may have the opportunity to gain clinical placement experience which could give you preference for employment, upon completion of your Diploma. Hospital locations are available around Australia. For more information email Ramsay.goldcoast@tafe.qld.edu.au

ST VINCENT’S PRIVATE AND MATER HOSPITAL NORTH SYDNEY

PARTNERSHIP
TAFE Queensland has partnered with St Vincent’s Private and Mater Hospital North Sydney to deliver the HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing. The 18 month course will be delivered on-site at one of the hospital campuses, allowing you to experience hands-on training in one of Sydney’s leading hospital groups and teaching facilities. For more information email stvincents.goldcoast@tafe.qld.edu.au
THE DETAILS
HOW TO GET STARTED

By now, you’ll be pretty well prepared (and hopefully a little excited) to immerse yourself in the pursuit of your dream job in nursing. TAFE Queensland wants to help get you there.

What are you waiting for? It’s time to step into the world of nursing with TAFE Queensland.

Flexible Study Options

• Full-time and part-time study options
• Vet Student Loans so you can afford to pursue your dream career for the HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing*

On Campus Counsellors

• Counsellors who can assist you with career guidance or any personal issue you may face

Learning Support

• Learning Support to help you get the most out of your studies

VET Student Loans

*VET Student Loans will not be approved for students who do not meet eligibility requirements. A VET Student Loan gives rise to a HELP debt that continues to be a debt due to the Commonwealth until it is repaid. Information about the new program is outlined on the Australian Government’s VET Student Loans website at www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans.

What are you waiting for? It’s time to step into the world of nursing with TAFE Queensland.

If you need any further information:

Visit tafeqld.edu.au/nursing
Alternatively, give us a call on: 1300 308 233
Ellie was asked about her experience so far:

“I’m really enjoying the TAFE Queensland HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing. The major drawcard for me is that I could still work full-time and study part-time and online.”

“I’ve always been interested in the health field. When I graduate I hope to get work in a hospital. I may even do further studies to become a Registered Nurse or apply to the paramedics. That’s the great thing about nursing, if offers so many opportunities.”

THE SUCCESS
STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Amy spoke of her journey studying nursing at TAFE Queensland:

“While I didn’t have any background in nursing, being a full-time carer gave me an insight into what is involved. I saw this course as an opportunity for stable employment. The world will always need health care workers and nurses. As it turns out, the nursing Diploma led to me securing work. I did an aged care placement and they asked me to stay on afterwards. Once I finish the course at the end of the year, I will continue working there, but as an Enrolled Nurse.”

“TAFE Queensland has provided me with tremendous opportunities that I never thought I’d have.”

“TAFE Queensland has provided me with tremendous opportunities”

Ellie was asked about her experience so far:

“TAFE Queensland has provided me with tremendous opportunities.”