

Questions to ask Health care administrator: Nicholas Crafts

Question: First off, how did you know this was the job/career field that you wanted to work for?

Answer: I didn't know that I would be going into healthcare administration. At first, I went to school for business administration, thinking that would open up more career opportunities, rather than focusing on just one specific thing, like art or science. Then I got my first job working as a trauma grant coordinator, and it just kind of went from there.

Question: This is a question my professor provided: what specific skills (occupation and personal) are needed to do well?

Answer: Definitely the ability to communicate and organize. You'll be looking at a lot of documents, and speaking to many different doctors, so you need to be able to understand the language they use, and also keep in mind the patients they are handling. As for organization, you might be managing schedules and you'll have to keep track of money and other miscellaneous tasks to keep everything on track. Personal skills would just be to have the ability to understand people's emotions, read their faces, learn what to say and what not to say, know yourself well, and knowing your place and the "presence" you bring.

Question: What do you like most about your job?

Answer: That's a hard question to answer. I like the money it provides, but that makes me sound selfish, does it? I like that I get the chance to help out people in other ways, rather than just being the doctor spilling out medical mumbo jumbo and telling you what medications you have to take, or if your daughter is in surgery and she didn't make it. I'm not the one saying that. I'm usually the one telling the family their insurance doesn't cover their procedure. But anyways, I like helping in ways that's not directly seen as helping. And besides, cleaning up after the elderly is not something I think either of us want to be doing.

Question: What's the hardest part about of this job?

Answer: Having to be the one to tell a family that the cost of their stay at the hospital has gone up, and seeing the look on their faces, like they can't pay for it, and they might have to take up more jobs. I know there are other ways around that certain problem, but it still sucks.

Question: Tell me about how you go about hiring someone into the hospital, or into your position.

Answer: Well, I first like to look at their resume. Obviously having some experience in the health field, whether that be public health or just in general working in a health environment is welcome, it doesn't necessarily I wouldn't hire someone who doesn't have that type of experience. But generally, a degree in either Business administration or Healthcare administration is welcome. I like to see if they've done any volunteer work as that's very helpful in determining where they should be put in the work place, and also their general disposition during the interview. I like to ask them about their hobbies, what they want from this job, any ways they could possibly improve on what's already been established and general things like that. I like to ask what motivated them to apply, why they chose this specific career, and learn about them more. Be personable.

Question: How do you deal with stressful situations?

Answer: I usually just tell myself that, "If they aren't going to die because of my actions, there's no need to worry," and it works most of the time. I'm not dealing with peoples lives directly. I'm not the one defibrillating them. So, like, if I'm going into a meeting with maybe the head of the company that owns the hospital, nothing I say is going to kill someone in there, so that helps keep me levelheaded.

Question: Do you offer mentorship for students?

Answer: I haven't mentored a student before, so I don't think I'd really know what to do other than give my "expert" opinion on questions. I know we have a few doctors and nurses here that would love to mentor a student or have them come shadow their job.

Medical and Health Service Mangers

Employment of medical and health services managers is projected to grow 28 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations.

Average pay is \$101,340, starting pay is \$70,243 and yes the pay does vary depending on which company you work for.

Medical and health services managers typically need at least a bachelor's degree to enter the occupation. However, master's degrees are common and sometimes preferred by employers. Graduate programs often last between 2 and 3 years and may include up to 1 year of supervised administrative experience in a hospital or healthcare consulting setting.

Unit Administrative Asst

Houston Methodist

Houston, TX

- Two years of secretarial/office, college/vocational training or patient care
- Prior health care experience and/or medical terminology preferred

CEO/Facility Administrator (FT) - Memorial Houston Surgery Center

SCA Health

Houston, TX

- Bachelors Degree in Health Administration, Business Administrator or Management Required
- Master's Degree preferred
- Operational management experience required

- Budgeting, financial management, clinical service management and materials management required
- Experience in hospital surgery center operations strongly preferred
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite is required

Reflection

Well, one thing I learned is that I really have to step up my organizational skills if I want to be successful in this career, because those are greatly lacking. I've always wanted to do the more managerial side of healthcare, so doing this interview really helped ease some of the anxiety I had about more of my personal skills, rather than my academic ones. It's nice to see that his particular career field is always going to be relevant because of its healthcare correlation, and even if I don't get into a specific job in healthcare, the degree is still widely accepted as a business degree, and I can find jobs from there.

Question to ask Registered Nurse: Cindy Ledezma

Question: How did you know this was job/career field you wanted to work for?

Answer: I knew I wanted to be a nurse from a very young age. Most of the people in my family are nurses, so it made sense for me to take up the torch and carry on that legacy. However, I never really knew what it meant to be a nurse before I had to go to school and do all the tests and all the clinical rotations and everything that comes with it. Helping people is a lot more tedious than elementary school makes it seem.

Question: What advice would you give a nurse who's new to your clinic and is fresh out of school?

Answer: I would tell them not to stress and to slow *down*. There's a lot that goes on here, and yes it is a stressful job, but trust in yourself that you know what you're doing, and that you have confidence in yourself. We usually give new recruits ample time to adjust to this kind of lifestyle. It's no hospital nurse where we work very late hours, but sometimes we do get problematic patients that need to be transferred over. Another thing I would tell them is no one cares if you graduated top of your class. I didn't do exceptional in nursing school, but I also wasn't terrible, so your GPA here doesn't matter a lot. All we care about is if you're willing to learn, willing to help, and willing to be patient.

Question: What's the scariest thing you've had happen here?

Answer: We don't get a lot of scary things, mostly just gross things. One time, however, I was doing a routine check up on a patient who was complaining of chest pain—blood pressure, charting, that kind of stuff, and he went into cardiac arrest. Luckily for us we have defibrillators in each room, but for some reason, I didn't think about using them. My mind immediately went to doing chest compressions and screaming to call the ambulance and for extra help. I try not to think about that moment too much, because life would've been a lot easier if I just grabbed the paddles.

Question: Do you guys offer mentorship for students studying nursing?

Answer: I personally don't offer mentorship as I have a lot going on with my family, and I think a student would get a lot more experience from someone who is not in a general clinic.

Question: Did you ever want to work in a big hospital setting?

Answer: I thought about it for a long time, but I ultimately ended up deciding to work in a small clinic because it's closer to home for my kids, and it's a lot less stressful. We don't have rounds or on-call times; it's more like a 9-5 in a sense where we show up for an allotted amount of time, triage the patients we get, tell the doctors the information, and then go home for the day. It is nice not having to work on weekends.

Question: What kind of person do you think should be a nurse?

Answer: I think everybody should be a nurse if they have the passion and the drive to do it, and also the want and the need to help people. If they're someone who doesn't like getting their hands messy, or seeing something they really don't want to be seeing, or dealing with uncooperative patients sometimes and just being generally apathetic, then they really shouldn't consider this position. We as nurses don't get paid as much as the doctors, or even some of the other staff, so it's sort of like being a teacher: you have to *really* want to do it, and not care as much about how much you're making.

Registered Nurse

Employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 6 percent from 2021 to 2031, about as fast as the average for all occupations.

Entry pays: \$59,480. Average: \$77,600

Salaries do depend on setting. Whether you're working for the government, in a big hospital, or a clinic.

Registered nurses must have a nursing license issued by the state in which they work. To become licensed, nurses must graduate from an approved nursing program and pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN). Registered nurses usually take one of three education paths: a bachelor's degree in nursing, an associate's degree in nursing, or a diploma from an approved nursing program.

Registered Nurse / RN

Thrive Skilled Pediatric Care LLC

Montgomery, TX

Requirements:

- RN/LVN with a current valid license to practice as issued by the State Board of Nursing
- Current CPR certification

Registered Nurse RN

Cornerstone Healthcare Group

Conroe, TX

Minimum Qualifications:

- Ability to project a professional image
- Knowledge of regulatory standards and compliance requirements and hospital policies and procedures
- Working knowledge and ability to apply professional standards of practice in job situations
- Strong organizational and analytical skills
- Working knowledge of personal computer and software applications used in job functions (Order entry, data input etc.)
- A minimum of two (2) years experience in an ICU environment is preferred for HOU/ICU RNs

Education and/or Experience:

- Graduate from an accredited school of professional nursing.
- Two or more years of acute care experience or rehabilitation as a Registered Nurse (RN) is preferred.

Contract - RN - Huntsville, TX

Seasoned Recruitment

Huntsville, TX

Qualifications

- Graduate of an accredited school of nursing.
- Current licensure in good standing in the state of practice, and all other states where license is held
- Evidence of 1 year of nursing experience in specialty within the past two years
- Evidence of BLS and all additional required credentials specific to nurse specialty and as designated by health care organization.

Reflection

Although being a nurse was my actual goal when thinking about going into healthcare, I soon realized that I am not the best people person, nor do I want to have to help with the gross and messy things you have to deal with as a nurse. I know in myself that I would not be the best nurse, but that doesn't mean that I can't at least try to subvert some of those bad traits and really bring forth the good ones. Doing this interview made me realize just how lackluster and stressful being a nurse can be, depending on where you work and what your specialty is. In the end, I don't think being a nurse would be my plan B option anymore.