Career Night

Elaine O’Neill

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Nursing

Nurse for thirty years

12 years labor and delivery

18 years lactation consultant

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Lactation graduate classes through UCLA extension followed by hours of experience to qualify for the International Board Certified Lactation Exam to become a board certified lactation consultant.

My job: see babies in the hospital from 0-5 days old, and their moms and families and help with the breastfeeding and infant feeding plan. Part of my job involves educating the nurses on the floor about lactation and current research, as well as educating pediatricians and other doctors about lactation and current research and recommendations. I help moms and babies after they go home as we have appointments at the hospital.

Favorite part of my job:

Working with moms and babies, I go home with feeling of accomplishment as they are so appreciative and I feel I made a positive difference in their lives.

Things I like about the nursing field:

Flexible schedule

Good pay and benefits

Variety of jobs within the field

Helping people

Requires staying up on research

Uses my brain, challenging, interesting

Usually no work to bring home

Working as a team

Every day is different

Education:

Most private and now state schools are direct entry, meaning you apply when you apply to the school.If you are admitted to the nursing program then you start nursing classes second college year as long as you maintain GPA. The first year of college is microbiology, human anatomy, human physiology, chemistry, and other GE classes. Second year nursing school starts.

In high school need: B or higher in biology, chemistry with lab, and algebra 2, along with SAT/ACT scores.

Students who like working with people and also like science will do well in nursing school!

Job prospects are good, start working with minimal student debt compared to medical school.