

Nurses...

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"Some earlier schools were basically apprenticeships in hospitals," she said. "There are also diploma programs and collegiate degrees for registered nurses. We would like to establish a set educational goal for a professional nurse."

Crutchfield said that despite the shortage of nurses, there has not been a large increase in male nursing students. In 1979, there were nine men to 214 women in the college of nursing.

Phyllis Bovee, director of nursing education at Bryan Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, said she has noticed a substantial decrease in the number of applicants to the school.

"We used to get three times as many applicants as we could take," she said. "Now, we just accepted 120 out of 200 applicants."

Bovee said she anticipated a national need for 20,000 nurses by 1985.

"There are several reasons for the nursing shortage," she said. "Fewer high school graduates are going on to school because they can make more money elsewhere.

There are more places open for women, and other fields are just more attractive."

Recruits students

Bovee said that the nursing school recruits students because of the declining number of applicants.

Elaine Wymore, director of nursing at Maplewood Nursing Home, 4405 Normal Blvd., said that she is having trouble finding nurses.

"Right now we have 11 nurses to 68 people," she said. "That is not enough."

Wymore said that she has raised salaries as much as possible to keep nurses, but there is still a high staff turnover.

"Most of our nurses are still in school or are newly graduated and looking for other jobs, so most of them only stay about a year or two."

She said salaries of licensed practical nurses at the nursing home are comparable to those of Lincoln hospitals, but salaries for registered nurses are slightly below average.

\$6.85 hour

The average salary for practicing professional nurses has been estimated at \$6.85 an hour throughout the nation.

Officials of the Nebraska Department of Health reported salaries for licensed practical nurses averaging

\$4.81 an hour, and those for registered nurses as averaging \$6.08 an hour, according to a July 1980 survey.

Linda Rizjis, director of nursing at the University Health Center, said the health center has not had a shortage of nurses even though officials would like to hire more nurses.

"One advantage the health center has that other medical centers do not is that the work is more on a 9 to 5 weekday basis," she said.

"We are below the minimum wage of most Lincoln hospitals, but we raised nurses' salaries by 30 cents an hour recently."

Rizjis said that if local hospitals increased salaries, the health center might have trouble keeping nurses, but she does not think that will happen soon.

"We do advertise the low salary, and this automatically eliminates some highly-qualified people," she said.


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