

Career Exploration for the ESOL Classroom

Health Sciences: Nursing



Student Workbook

Institute for the Professional Development of Adult Educators

CAREER EXPLORATION FOR THE ESOL CLASSROOM

Health Care: Nursing

Rod Duckworth, Chancellor
Career and Adult Education, Department of Education

Zelda Rogers, Senior Educational Program Director
Adult Education, Career and Adult Education

Philip Anderson, ESOL Program Specialist
Adult Education, Career and Adult Education

June Rall, Director of IPDAE
Tamara Serrano, Project Support Specialist for IPDAE

Developers
Bonnie Goonen
Susan Pittman



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Institute for the Professional Development of Adult Educators
3209 Virginia Avenue - Fort Pierce, FL 34981
Phone 772-462-7409 • E-mail info@floridaipdae.org

Table of Contents

Introduction to Health Care – Gina	1
Vocabulary	1
Scenario.....	1
What Do You Think?	2
Taking Advantage of Opportunities – Gina and Mrs. Myers.....	3
Vocabulary	3
Scenario.....	3
What Do You Think?	4
So Many Pathways – Gina, Eduardo, Debi, Tracey.....	5
Vocabulary	5
Scenario.....	5
What Do You Think?	6
Glossary.....	7

Introduction to Health Care – Gina

Scenario

Gina sat down for a moment. Being a Certified Nursing Assistant was a hard job. She had just finished an eight hour shift at the local nursing home. She had spent the day feeding, bathing, and dressing her patients. Then she made sure all of their vital signs were taken. Mrs. Walker was always a difficult one on whom to get an accurate blood pressure. Then of course, she had to make sure the beds were made. It was important that each of her patients was comfortable. Serving meals was Gina's favorite time of the day. She had time to talk with her patients.

Gina had worked hard to become a CNA. She had taken a course at the local technical center. The hardest part was the state exam. She had studied hard to pass the test. Gina had thought about taking the test in Spanish. It was one of the things that she could do to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. However, she had been taking classes at her adult education center. Gina wanted to make sure that she could communicate well with all of her patients. Plus, she knew that she would need to read English well so that she could read the orders from the nurses. So, Gina took the test in English instead. She was excited that she had passed the test the very first time she took it.

Now it was time to think about her next step. Gina liked being a CNA, but she really wanted to be a Registered Nurse. Gina knew that getting her degree would offer her more opportunities. There were so many job

Vocabulary

- Accurate
- Blood pressure
- Career
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Opportunity
- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Vital

openings in the nursing field. Plus, she would get to do so many more things. Becoming a Registered Nurse was her dream. Now, all she had to do was figure out her next step.

What Do You Think?

1. Why do you think Gina wants a career as a Registered Nurse?
2. What advantages would being a Registered Nurse have for Gina?
3. What traits does Gina have that makes her a valuable health care professional?
4. Why do you think it is beneficial for Gina to improve her English reading, writing, and speaking skills?
5. If you were Gina, what would your next step be? Why?

Taking Advantage of Opportunities – Gina and Mrs. Myers

Scenario

Gina had requested an appointment with her supervisor, Mrs. Myers. Mrs. Myers was the administrator for the nursing home, and was also a registered nurse. Gina was sure that she could help her with how to get started in a career in nursing.

“How can I help you? Mrs. Myers asked Gina.

“First, I just want to say that I really enjoy my job,” Gina shared. “I like being a CNA at the center. However, I have always wanted to be a registered nurse. I watched the nursing staff here at the center. I know that it is a challenging job, but I know that I would be an excellent nurse. The problem is that I don’t know how to get started. I was hoping that you could give me some ideas.”

“I am so glad that you are happy with your job,” Mrs. Myers said thoughtfully. “I am very pleased with your performance. You are wonderful with the patients. You also make sure that you follow the nursing instructions. My nursing team really enjoys working with you. I am also really pleased that you want to further your education. It’s a very difficult field, but so rewarding. When would you like to get started?”

Gina thought for a moment. She would like to start immediately, but she knew that a nursing program was expensive. There was tuition, fees,

Vocabulary

- Administrator
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Performance
- Scholarship
- Tuition

and books that needed to be covered. Gina wondered whether she could work while she attended school.

“I would really like to get started now,” Gina shared. “However, I know that without a scholarship I really can’t afford the cost of a nursing program.”

Mrs. Myers thought for a moment. “Gina, you know that we have a real shortage of Licensed Practical Nurses at our center. In fact, the management team has discussed paying for qualified people to get their LPN. We would pay for tuition and all of the books. All that is required is that you would have to work for us for two years as an LPN. Would you be interested?”

Gina couldn’t believe what she was hearing. Becoming an LPN would be another step towards becoming a Registered Nurse. Plus, she loved working at the center. It would be no problem to work with the staff for two more years.

What Do You Think?

1. How would becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse help Gina in her goal of becoming a Registered Nurse?
2. Do you think that Gina should take Mrs. Myers offer? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think the nursing home center is paying for schooling for people to become Licensed Practical Nurses? Do you know of a situation where someone has had their schooling paid for by a business?

So Many Pathways – Gina, Eduardo, Debi, Tracey

Scenario

Gina was excited about Mrs. Myer’s offer of paying for her going to school to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. It wasn’t the same as becoming a Registered Nurse like her friend Eduardo, but it was a step in the right direction.

As Gina was going home, she saw Eduardo and his friends Debi and Tracey leaving the hospital.

“Hey Gina,” Eduardo said. “Have you made a decision on Mrs. Myer’s offer?”

“I think so,” Gina said. “It is a great opportunity. If you don’t mind me asking, how did each of you become a Registered Nurse?”

“I went to nursing school at a local community college,” said Eduardo. “I was lucky because I was able to start school right after I received my high school diploma. I applied for financial aid to help me pay for the program. What I want to do is go back to school and get my degree someday. Our hospital has a special program that I’m looking into.”

Tracey said, “I went to a college and got my degree in nursing. I really wanted to become a supervisor. Most supervisors have their degrees, so that’s what I did.”

Vocabulary

- Degree
- Financial aid
- Home Health Aid (HHA)
- Opportunity
- Supervisor

“How about you, Debi?” asked Gina.

“Like you, I started as a CNA,” said Debi. “I wasn’t sure whether I would like the health field. I didn’t want to start a program and find out I didn’t like it. Plus, I needed to work on my reading, writing, and speaking skills. I went to the local adult education center, just like you. I took the CNA course there and then took a course to become a Home Health Aide. Then, I went to our local technical center to get my LPN certification. I went to the evening program so that I could work during the day. It took me a little longer, but I succeeded. When I started working at the hospital, I was able to enter a special program to become an RN. It took me a few years to finish, but I’m proud to say that I am a registered nurse. It’s been a long path, but well worth it.”

Gina looked at her friends. They each took such different ways to reach their career goals. What would be best for her?

What Do You Think?

1. What different paths did Eduardo, Tracey, and Debi take to reach their career goal of becoming a Registered Nurse? What path would you take? Why?
2. Why do you think that Debi shared she first had to improve her reading, writing, and speaking skills? Why are these skills important in the Health Care field?
3. Have you ever taken a career inventory? If so, what information did it give you?
4. Why do you think that Gina is having a hard time making a decision about a career?
5. What do you think Eduardo’s next step should be? Why?

Glossary

Accurate: *adjective* – information or measurements that is exact, correct in all details.

Administrator: *noun* – a person responsible for running a hospital or organization.

Blood pressure: *noun* – the pressure of the blood against the walls of the blood vessels.

Career: *noun* – a profession that usually requires training.

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA): *noun* – a person who has completed a brief health care training program and who helps patients under the supervision of a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse.

Degree: *noun* – a type of diploma for completing studies at a school or university. The two most common degrees awarded are the associate's degree and the bachelor's degree.

Financial aid: *noun* – a grant, scholarship, loan, or paid employment offered to help a student meet his/her college expenses.

Home Health Aid (HAA): *noun* – a trained and certified health-care worker who provides assistance to a patient in the home with personal care and light household duties and who monitors the patient's condition.

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN): *noun* – a person who has graduated from an accredited school of nursing and has become licensed to provide basic nursing care under the supervision of a physician or registered nurse.

Opportunity: *noun* – a chance to do something.

Performance: *noun* – the act of carrying out something or completing a task.

Registered Nurse (RN): *noun* – a nurse who has completed at least an associate's degree in nursing or a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and has successfully passed a certification exam.

Scholarship: *noun* – a payment to support a student’s education based on academic or other achievements, such as a scholarship of \$200 per semester.

Supervisor: *noun* – a person who monitors employees in their tasks.

Tuition: *noun* – the money charged for teaching or instruction by a school or college.

Vital: *adjective* – something absolutely necessary or important.