Activities

The Activities Department leads the residents in their pursuit of fun. This includes games, arts and crafts, and music. Sometimes they organize trips to exciting places such as museums, movies, and the zoo.

Are you a person who:

- Likes to play games and does arts and crafts?
- Enjoys being with people older than your parents?
- Is patient and helpful?

What is the salary?

$25,000 – $48,000

How can you prepare to work in the Activities Department?

- Study geriatrics.
- Learn fun games for groups.
- Understand safety methods.

What are similar careers?

- Teacher
- Recreation Therapist
- Sales

Career steps

Director
Supervisor
Coordinator
Assistant

Making the residents happy makes me happy. They are like family to me. It’s like I’m planning a birthday party every single day.”
Administration

The Administration are the top officers of the entire organization. Together, the administration pull together all departments to help the organization run smoothly.

Are you a person who:

- Enjoys being a leader?
- Wants a job with travel and variety?
- Can work with others to solve big problems?

How much schooling is needed?

Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree and special license

What are similar careers?

- Hospital Administrator
- Financial Manager
- Construction Manager

What is the salary?

$100,000 - $250,000

Above Average Growth

How can you prepare to become a Chief Administrator?

- Study how successful organizations work.
- Job shadow an executive at your local aging services organization.
- Learn about money management and budgeting.

Career steps

- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Ofc
- Chief Human Resources Officer
- Chief Nursing Officer
- Chief Information Officer
- Executive Director
- Nursing Home Administrator

This role gives me the chance to positively improve the lives of thousands of residents and employees. I love the challenge.
Business & Office Management

Keeping good records is very important for business. These records may be bills and records about the residents’ health. Payment to other employees is also part of office management.

Are you a person who:

- Enjoys Mathematics?
- Can keep very accurate notes and records?
- Likes working with computers?

How much schooling is needed?

High School Diploma — Bachelor’s in Accounting

What are similar careers?

- Bank Teller
- Pharmacy Technician
- Computer Code Writer

What is the salary?

$26,000 - $75,000

How can you prepare to become a worker in the Business Office?

- Keep track of money that is spent in your household.
- Study software programs that help with record keeping.
- Review the medical records of a family pet.

Career steps

- Senior Accountant
- Business Manager
- Accounts Payable & Receivable/Medical Records
- Payroll
- Secretary
- Receptionist

Employment outlook

I am proud to support a business that helps others enjoy a quality of life. We take care of the health records and the bills that need to be tracked.”
Culinary Services

Enjoying a meal with friends equals fun. Culinary Service workers make sure that everyone finds delight in each and every meal.

Are you a person who:

- Finds joy in cooking and serving meals to others?
- Enjoys watching cooking shows?
- Understands the importance of healthy eating?

How much schooling is needed?

High School Diploma — Culinary Arts Degree and/or Chef Certification

What are similar careers?

- Restaurant Worker
- Cook
- Dietician

What is the salary?

$25,000 – $60,000

How can you prepare to become a Culinary and Dining Service Director?

- Plan and make meals for your family; volunteer at a Soup Kitchen.
- Study health and nutrition.
- Create a budget for an entire menu and analyze the costs.

Career steps

Executive Chef
Supervisor
Cook
Prep Cook
Server

I am always amazed how appreciative the residents are whenever we experiment with meals and surprise them. Better yet, the hours are predictable and normal.”
Nutrition

A Nutritionist helps plan meals and menus based on the health and needs of individuals. They are experts on how to manage disease through food choices.

Are you a person who:

- Appreciates the importance of healthy eating?
- Likes giving advice about making good choices?
- Makes decisions based on scientific findings?

What is the salary?

$38,000 – $60,000

How can you prepare to become a Nutritionist?

- Study a disease, such as heart disease, and plan a menu for healthy eating.
- Help an older family member improve eating choices.
- Read the labels of your favorite foods and consider changing eating habits.

How much schooling is needed?

Associate’s or Bachelor’s Degree

What are similar careers?

- Health Teacher
- Chef
- Athletic Trainer

Career steps

Registered Dietician
Dietetic Technician

Employment outlook

Ever hear ‘You are what you eat’?
I love being the person who makes sure residents can become a healthier version of themselves.”
Maintenance

Maintenance workers complete general repairs. This might include painting, flooring, electrical and plumbing.

Are you a person who:
- Enjoys working with your hands?
- Understands machines and how they operate?
- Completes projects in a timely manner?

What are similar careers?
- Mechanic
- Carpenter
- Electrician

What is the salary?
$31,000 – $55,000

How much schooling is needed?
High School Diploma, Technical School preferred

How can you prepare to become a Maintenance Worker?
- Help with repairs around your home.
- Keep a journal of what you notice at a local construction site.
- Watch videos and read articles about fixing things.

Career steps
- Supervisor
- Assistant Supervisor
- Technician
- Worker

Everyone feels like family here. I enjoy fixing their worries as they appreciate my work. Plus, you can see the results of my work right away!
Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Workers help residents with their spiritual life. They help them feel hope and deal with the challenges of growing older.

Are you a person who:

- Is spiritual?
- Can help others in their greatest time of need?
- Has the ability to comfort others?

What is the salary?

$46,000 – $61,000

How can you prepare to become a Pastoral Care Worker?

- Become involved in a church of your choosing.
- Study how religions are similar and different.
- Read stories about overcoming hard times.

How much schooling is needed?

Master’s Degree

What are similar careers?

- Counseling
- Marriage Therapist
- Motivational Speaker

Career steps

Chaplain
Bereavement Counselor
Associate Chaplain

Employment outlook

I love being the person others rely on during difficult times. I honestly don’t feel as if I’ve ever worked a day in my life.”
Transportation & Security

Many residents enjoy rides to places outside their community. Also, Security Officers help communities and people feel safer.

Are you a person who:

- Follows rules and makes others do the same?
- Wants a job which is different each and every day?
- Enjoys scheduling and record keeping?

What is the salary?

$31,000 – $46,000

How can you prepare to become a Transportation or Security Guard?

- Study safety procedures across different settings.
- Conduct bike safety classes for your friends.
- Run errands for a neighbor or relative.

How much schooling is needed?

High School Diploma with some training

What are similar careers?

- Policeman
- Postal Worker
- Taxi Driver

Career steps

Security Supervisor
Transportation Coordinator
Drivers & Security Guards

A big part of an older adults’ happiness is to be able to go and do whatever they want. I’m happy to provide that service in a safe, reliable way.”
Home Care

Home Care Workers provide services for older adults living in their own homes. They can give medications and help with simple exercises. They can also assist in cooking, cleaning, and scheduling appointments.

Are you a person who:

- Is caring, sensitive and trustworthy?
- Wants a job with variety and different tasks to complete each day?
- Would enjoy going into other peoples’ homes?

How much schooling is needed?

High School Diploma (Aide) — Associate’s Degree for Registered Nurse

What are similar careers?

- Childcare Worker
- Medical Assistant
- Social Service Assistants

What is the salary?

$23,000 – $98,000

How can you prepare to become a Home Care Worker?

- Go to doctor’s appointments with an older family member.
- Volunteer at a local senior center.
- Ask your librarian to suggest books about relationships with older adults.

Career steps

Director
Registered Nurse
Home Care Aide

I feel important as I am the eyes and ears for the doctors and nurses. I also enjoy getting to know the older adults and their families.”
Marketing

The Marketing Department helps older adults choose where to live and what services to receive. Through advertising, this department sells the community’s programs and services to the public.

Are you a person who:

- Enjoys selling and persuading others?
- Understands how social media can be used for communication purposes?
- Has some idea how successful businesses are run?

What is the salary?

$55,000 – $130,000

How much schooling is needed?

Bachelor’s Degree

What are similar careers?

- Writer or Editor
- Graphic Designer
- Sales

Career steps

- Director of Marketing
- Sales Associate

I feel great satisfaction when older adults decide to live in our community. Helping them feel safe and comfortable is the best part of my job.”
Information Technology

Information Technology (IT) workers use computers to help in many ways. They help the health care professionals keep better records. Technology also aids professionals as they care for people across many different places.

Are you a person who:

• Likes computers and helping older adults?
• Understands different ways to edit and change messages?
• Wants to have the freedom to work anytime, anywhere?

How much schooling is needed?
Bachelor’s Degree plus certain technical certifications

What are similar careers?
• Computer Programmer
• Mathematician
• Medical Records Specialist

What is the salary?
$50,000 – $140,000

How can you prepare to become an Information Technology Worker?
• Practice fixing computer problems; read directions in the manuals.
• Plan a big project and keep very complete records.
• Study how apps and computer programs work.

Career steps
Technical Director
Senior Analyst
Data-Base Administrator
Analyst or Systems Engineer
Help Desk Staff

Employment outlook
Above Average Growth

I love being in a field where I am using my computer skills. Working in a helping profession is a big plus.”
Environmental Services

Groundskeepers, janitors, and housekeepers are examples of workers who provide Environmental Services. They create a place that is safe, clean and pleasing to the eyes.

**Are you a person who:**
- Improves and fixes things, making them look better?
- Pays attention to detail?
- Can handle a physically-demanding job?

**What is the salary?**
$25,000 – $81,000

**How much schooling is needed?**
On-the-job training; formal education to advance.

**What are similar careers?**
- Pest Control Specialist
- Florist
- Beautician

**How can you prepare to become an Environmental Service Worker?**
- Help a relative or neighbor by volunteering to clean for them.
- Start a leaf-raking or weed-pulling business.
- Visit a local garden or conservatory. Take note of its beauty.

**Career steps**
- Director
- Supervisor
- Janitor/Groundskeeper
- Housekeeper/Laundry

I see my career through the eyes of the resident. I want them to see their community as a place that is clean and beautiful.”

**Employment outlook**
- Growth: Above Average
Fundraising & Development

Raising money helps an organization improve services for the residents. The buildings, grounds and services are updated with donations. These help the communities serve others even better.

Are you a person who:
- Likes to sell things and persuade others?
- Tackles projects and completes them on time?
- Works well with others and stays in touch with friends?

What is the salary?
$51,000 – $141,000

How can you prepare to become a Fundraiser or Director of Development?
- Raise money for a cause.
- Study how businesses find funding.
- Learn to be a successful writer and communicator.

How much schooling is needed?
Associate or Bachelor’s Degree

What are similar careers?
- Sales
- Teacher
- Nonprofit Worker

Career steps
- Director
- Grant Writer
- Associate

I’ve always loved raising money that helps other people. This work is more than a job. It is my way of helping others.”
Hospice workers help people who are at the end of their lives. They make sure that these very ill people are comfortable. They also help family members during this difficult time.

**Are you a person who:**
- Can help people with difficult situations?
- Is a good listener, when friends are hurting?
- Is caring yet can control your emotions?

**What are similar careers?**
- Clergy or Pastoral Care
- Counseling
- Social Work

**What is the salary?**
$21,000 (Aide) - $63,000 (RN) - $93,000 (Director)

**How can you prepare to become a Hospice Worker?**
- Talk with Hospice Workers.
- Read books about end of life.
- Complete community service with people who are nearing the end of their lives.

**How much schooling is needed?**
- Associate’s Degree - Bachelor’s Degree

**What are similar careers?**
- Clergy or Pastoral Care
- Counseling
- Social Work

**Employment outlook**

*My work with families and their dying loved ones is a life-changing experience. It’s the hardest thing I’ve ever done. Yet I love my work.*
Human Resources

Workers in Human Resources find and hire people based on their interests and the needs of the company. They also help employees understand important rules in their place of employment.

Are you a person who:
- Can complete several projects at the same time?
- Enjoys directing others with specific rules and instructions?
- Is good at spotting talent?

What is the salary?
$47,000 – $110,000

How much schooling is needed?
Bachelor’s Degree

How can you prepare to become a worker in Human Resources?
- Study employment rules and laws.
- Help friends match their interests to careers.
- Write reports that are clear and full of details.

What are similar careers?
- Career Counselor
- Insurance and Benefits Manager
- Business Manager

Career steps
- Director
- Recruiter
- Generalist
- Coordinator

For those who want to work in the field of aging, I am the person who helps them find the right fit.
Nursing Administration

A nursing administrator, or manager, is in charge of the largest caregiving parts of a community. Making hard decisions and solving problems is a daily challenge.

Are you a person who:
- Enjoys leading others?
- Is very responsible?
- Understands how to motivate others?

How much schooling is needed?
Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing

What are similar careers?
- Manager
- Other Health Services
- Health Insurance Agent

What is the salary?
$74,000 - $90,000

How can you prepare to become part of the Nursing Administration Team?
- Write reports after collecting factual information.
- When friends disagree, help them fix their problem.
- Make a budget to help you complete a project.

Career steps
- Director of Nursing
- Assistant Director of Nursing
- Clinical Manager
- Registered Nurse Supervisor
- Records and Reporting Nurse

Employment outlook

After working as a nurse for several years, I felt ready to lead others. I feel confident in my ability to help others be a good nurse, too.”
Nursing

Nurses help people who are sick or unable to help themselves. Without nurses, people would have a hard time.

Are you a person who:

- Likes to figure out why someone is sick?
- Is good at science?
- Wants a job where every day is different?

How much schooling is needed?

Special training for assistant; Associate or Bachelor’s Degree for nurse

What is the salary?

$21,000 (Nursing Assistant) – $63,000 (Registered Nurse)

How can you prepare to become a Nursing Assistant or Nurse?

- Learn about the human body.
- Care for animals.
- Babysit.

What are similar careers?

- Home Care Assistant
- Dental Assistant
- Veterinary Assistant

Career steps

Registered Nurse
Licensed Practical Nurse
Senior Nursing Assistant
Nursing Assistant/Aide

Every day and every patient is different. I love when patients tell me that I helped them.”
Rehabilitation Therapy

Some older adults need therapy to improve their quality of life. Therapists can help them with their speech and to recover from injuries.

**Are you a person who:**
- Wants to do something in the medical field?
- Knows a lot about health and wellness?
- Enjoys helping others heal and feel better?

**What is the salary?**
$55,000 – $100,000

**How much schooling is needed?**
Associate’s Degree for Assistants. Master’s Degree for OT & SLP; Doctorate for Physical Therapists.

**What are similar careers?**
- Nursing
- Exercise Trainer or Instructor
- Chiropractor

**How can you prepare to become a Rehabilitation Therapist?**
- Tutor others.
- Study the human body.
- Enroll in a variety of exercise classes.

**Career steps**
- Director of Therapy Services
- Physical Therapist
- Speech Therapist
- Physical Therapy Assistant & Occupational Therapy Assistant

“I celebrate every small gain a resident makes. I enjoy giving them the tools to make them feel better about themselves.”
Service Coordinator

Some older adults need help with meals, finding housing and other basic needs. Service Assistants and Managers help them meet these basic needs.

Are you a person who:
• Respects the individual rights of all?
• Sees the importance of helping older citizens live in their own homes?
• Works well with a variety of people?

What is the salary?
$33,000 – $64,000

How much schooling is needed?
High School Diploma - Bachelor’s Degree

How can you prepare to become a Service Coordinator?
• Practice active listening.
• Meet with local clergy and ask how they help those who come to them for assistance.
• Research the types of services government provides to its citizens.

What are similar careers?
• Social Worker
• Childcare Worker
• Mental Health Counselor

Career steps
Service Manager
Service Assistant

We Service Coordinators are the key to successful aging in the community. I enjoy finding solutions and giving the residents the help they need.”
Social Services

The Social Worker helps the residents and their families. They follow a care plan that develops the residents’ well being.

Are you a person who:

- Others look to for help with their problems?
- Understands the importance of physical and mental health?
- Reads about and respects the challenges others face?

What is the salary?

$45,000 – $65,000

How can you prepare to become a Social Worker?

- Study the variety of community services available in your area.
- Practice coping skills.
- Discuss with older family members the problems they face.

How much schooling is needed?

Bachelor’s Degree

What are similar careers?

- School Counselor
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Probation Officer

Career steps

- Director of Social Services
- Social Worker

Like all of us, sometimes older adults need a watchful eye. Making their lives easier gives them and their families a sense of safety. It’s so rewarding.”
Educator

The Educator can teach either young children or other adults. The young children are taught in a daycare setting. The Educator also can teach other adults ways to help the residents receive the best possible care.

Are you a person who:

• Wants to teach in a setting outside of a regular classroom?
• Likes to solve problems?
• Finds creative answers to questions?

What are similar careers?

• Teacher
• School Counselor
• Business Manager

What is the salary?

$28,000 – $96,000

How much schooling is needed?

Associate’s Degree for Daycare Teacher and Bachelor’s Degree for Staff Educator.

How can you prepare to become an Educator?

• Study the benefits of placing daycares within nursing communities.
• Talk to professionals about how they receive more training for their jobs.
• Become a tutor or peer mentor.

Career steps

Director
Staff Educator
Daycare Teacher

I love teaching, and I love working in a Life Plan Community. The residents deserve highly trained staff.”