





**What's Important to You?  
 Career Snapshots Offer Choices**  
 By Laura Lorber and Dana Mattioli

**CHOOSE A CAREER** What matters to you most in a career?

**CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY**

 <p><b>PERSONAL AND HOME CARE AIDE</b></p>	<p><b>INCOME:</b> 2004 median annual wage: <b>\$17,020.</b></p> <p><b>OUTLOOK:</b> <b>400,000 additional employees</b> between 2004 and 2014.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Home-care aides tend to become like family to elderly patients they care for, says Shirley Cohen, executive director of Home Sweet Home Care, a private-duty home-care agency in San Francisco, Redwood City and Walnut Creek, Calif. In some circumstances, she says, "Home-care aides who work with these seniors become more endeared to them than their own families in some circumstances."</p>
<p><b>TRAINING:</b> Passing a competency test (if working for employers reimbursed by Medicare, and the federal government suggests at least 75 hours of classroom and practical training, supervised by a nurse).</p> <p><b>SKILLS/QUALITIES NEEDED:</b> Tact, patience, dependability, ability to perform repetitive tasks, desire to help people, good health, ability to pass a criminal-background check.</p>	<p><b>INCOME:</b> 2004 median annual wage: <b>\$53,640.</b></p> <p><b>OUTLOOK:</b> <b>1,203,000 additional employees</b> between 2004 and 2014.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Nurses occasionally must handle situations in which patients leave the hospital without telling anyone, says Deborah Burger, a diabetes case worker and registered nurse at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, in Santa Rosa, Calif., who is president of the California Nurses Association: "I had a patient that called me from a bar down the street and said he'd be back when the bar closed," she says.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National League for Nursing</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">American Association of Colleges of Nursing</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">American Nurses Association</a></li> </ul>
 <p><b>REGISTERED NURSE</b></p>	
<p><b>TRAINING:</b> Bachelor's or associate degree, or diploma from an approved nursing program; and passing a national licensing examination.</p> <p><b>SKILLS/QUALITIES NEEDED:</b> Ability to stand and walk for long periods, cope with working with health hazards and emotional strain, and adhere to strict guidelines to guard against disease and other dangers.</p>	