

Jennifer Hearne

GCN 610 Career Development Dr. Blakely & Prof. [Steve Stuhldreger](#)

### Professional Interview Questions & Answers

Employee's Name: Tracey Dudyshyn

Name of the Career Profession: Registered Nurse

Years at this Position: 35 Years

Licensure, and degree(s) New York State Registered License/Bachelor's in Nursing

Work at: Westchester Medical Center

1. How do you spend a typical day or week? As a critical care Nurse, my work begins at 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM. I must arrive 1 hour before the start of my shift so that I can change into scrubs and gather appropriate protective equipment. At 7:00 AM I must be ready and on point for the first patient of the day. This is in the operating room, a typical day can vary in the OR depending on the number of patients and length of procedures. The primary responsibility of the OR nurse is safety for the patients and all staff members in the operating room, (e.g). As a nurse we perform hurdles we stop and to assure we have the right patient, the right procedure and assure all equipment is in working conditions. During the workday I will have a patient for the whole 12th hours or I can have multiple patients that have quicker surgical times. If there are quicker patients we spend a lot of time efficiently turning the room around and sterilizing.

2. How did you get into this line of work? As a nurse with experience, I had never applied to be an Or Nurse it ultimately always intrigued me. So I applied and I was placed on orientation for six weeks and was trained as an O.R. Nurse. This was after I was the head and personal nurse for Christopher Reeve, the actor that played the role of Superman who was paralyzed after a horse-riding accident.
3. What kinds of skills are needed for your job? The requirements are C.P.R certified, Basic Life Support License, Intravenous trained.
4. What is your work environment like? Hectic, very busy everything moves very quickly because the O.R. time is money and the doctors and administrators don't want to waste time.
5. How would you describe your colleagues? My colleagues are professional, efficient, knowledgeable, hard workers, we all get along with each other and naturally validate others, and are willing to step in and support the team.
6. What are some of the things you like most/least about your job? The thing that I like most about my profession is having the ability to contribute to the well-being of the patient. Is not just being a nurse is being part of a team with hands-on all the time. The least is the O.R. because your patients are sleeping and so I have very little interaction with them. Is fun for me to be a nurse especially when I can interact with the patients when they are awake and not under anesthesia?
7. What kind of work schedule does this career require (overtime, weekends, freelancing, travel, etc.)? It is a 12-hour shift three days a week every other weekend and alternating holiday's

8. What about starting salaries? Starting salaries for nurses start at \$75,000 a year. My current salary is \$150,000 and is based on the years of experience.
9. How do you like your overall career and lifestyle? I am blessed with my career of choice and the best I could've chosen. It has been a very rewarding opportunity and for that I am grateful.
10. What advice would you offer me if I chose to pursue a career in this area? I would say you really have to love what you do and have the personality characteristics of a caregiver. It is hard work but extremely rewarding.
11. What kind of decisions did you have to make when you were Christopher Reeve's personal nurse? When I was Christopher Reeve's personal nurse I had 15 nurses underneath me. Life and death decisions had to be made constantly. Anything from giving medications to managing the nursing schedules, and everything in between. He was an Intensive Care patient and very different. He required one on one attention 24/7. The reason was that he was on a ventilator at all times.



