CAREER MAP

Staff Nurse

WHAT COMPASS HEARD

You come alive in one-to-one time with people, like sitting with Peggy until the tea trolley comes, and you're curious about how the body and brain actually work. You want a steady, caring job with a team and a base, and you're happy to do the longer college route to get there.

TOP MATCH

Good match

Staff Nurse

Nursing brings together the things you said matter most: helping people, working in a team on a ward or in a clinic, having a base you know, and a steady career. It also uses your Biology interest every day. You already spend Saturdays with residents, and your cousin Ciara's ward stories have you curious.

> **BECAUSE YOU SAID**
>
> - You lose track of time sitting with Peggy at the nursing home
> - You want a team and a base like a hospital ward where you get to know the people you look after
> - Your top two priorities are helping people, then money and security

YOUR NEXT STEPS

1. This week: look up nursing on CareersPortal or Qualifax, and ask Ciara what a normal day on her ward is really like
2. Next few weeks: ask the nursing home staff what the carers and nurses do, and ask your guidance counsellor about adding LCVP
3. Within a year: get your Maths sorted over the summer, check the entry requirements for nursing courses, and use TY or 5th Year time for a placement in a health setting
4. 1-3 years: apply through the CAO for nursing, with a few backup courses and a PLC course as another way in

Read the Staff Nurse guide →

YOUR ROUTES IN IRELAND

CAO DEGREE

Apply through the CAO for a nursing degree, or for a physiotherapy or occupational therapy degree, which include placements in hospitals and community settings.

PLC COURSE

A Level 5 healthcare or nursing studies PLC course gives you a qualification and experience first, with options to progress to a degree later.

Leaving Cert subjects to consider: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, English, Irish

---

REAL COURSES IN IRELAND

Nursing - General Nursing (BSc)

Dublin City University · CAO degree · Level 8

Nursing - General Nursing (BSc)

University of Limerick · CAO degree · Level 8

Found on official course sites. Check entry requirements and this year's points with the college before applying.

Explore real courses on Qualifax, CAO, Fetchcourses and apprenticeship.ie.

ALSO WORTH EXPLORING

Physiotherapist

Good match

You loved Aoife explaining how muscles and joints work, and you saw her help Peggy walk again after her hip. It mixes the one-to-one time with the puzzle of how the body works.

Route: CAO degree

> **BECAUSE YOU SAID**
>
> - Aoife's explanations of muscles and joints, which you found brilliant
> - You'd like a mix of helping one-to-one and working out how the body or brain works

Occupational Therapist

Worth exploring

It's about helping people manage daily life, like getting their chair or bed sorted. That fits your wish to build or fix only when it's useful to someone.

Route: CAO degree

> **BECAUSE YOU SAID**
>
> - You'd do hands-on work if it helped someone get their chair or bed sorted
> - You enjoy people's stories and helping them one-to-one

Healthcare Assistant

Worth exploring

A Level 5 healthcare PLC course gets you into caring work sooner, and it can lead on to nursing or other health courses later. It's a good way to test whether you love the day-to-day care.

Route: PLC course

> **BECAUSE YOU SAID**
>
> - Your Saturdays at the nursing home are the best part of your week
> - You'd rather be listening to someone's story than making something yourself

YOUR STRENGTHS

- Listening and building trust with older people
- Natural curiosity about biology and how the body works
- Getting people involved and comfortable, as with the Christmas quiz
- Staying committed, shown by your regular Saturday volunteering

SOMETHING TO KEEP IN MIND

Maths is your tougher subject, so your mam's idea of getting a grind sorted before summer is a good one. Check the Maths requirements for nursing and physiotherapy courses on CareersPortal or Qualifax early, so nothing surprises you in 6th Year.

ASK FOR WORK EXPERIENCE

Places you could ask:

- A week shadowing the nursing and care team in a nursing home or community hospital
- A placement in a local physiotherapy clinic
- A week in a GP surgery or primary care centre

What you could say or send:

Hi, my name is [your name] and I'm a student at [your school]. I'm interested in a career in nursing or physiotherapy and volunteer at a nursing home on Saturdays. I'd really appreciate the chance to do a week of work experience with your team during [dates]. I'd be happy to follow any guidelines you have. Thank you for considering it.

How closely this matches what you told Compass. It's an estimate, not a test score.