

Kenya Balisage

English 110C

April 18, 2019

Professor Garcia

Nursing Throughout One's College Years

Becoming any nurse can be very challenging, from taking classes in college to applying to the nursing program. Passing the classes all depends on how someone manages their time and whether they get their work done, take notes and whether they use their resources around them such as the writing center, tutoring, and having a mentor. The program is very competitive; therefore one should have outstanding grades to be accepted in the nursing program. There is so much more to nursing rather than just taking classes and getting accepted to the nursing program. Nurses do so much for patients and to become one, someone has to go through a lot, so they can be trusted in this field, taking care of patients. They need to be competent, critical thinkers, kind, exceptional communication skills, etc. In the medical field, there are always new things such as technology and practices; therefore nurses have to continue their education to keep them up to date.

There are many different types of nurses, but they all have a specific role. Nurses take patients medical history and symptoms and record them into the system once they get the time to do so throughout their day. They help physicians with treating patients and patients who are in surgery or recovering from surgery. They explain diagnosis to patients who need help understanding what their diagnoses are. They also handle specific medical machinery, such as

x-rays, cat scans, sonograms, and so much more. Nurses also have different work environments. Not all nurses work in a hospital; some may work as an army nurse, in a nursing home, at schools, and travel nurses. There are a lot of illnesses and injuries that come with nursing. Nurses spend a lot of time walking, bending, stretching, and standing. They are always lifting objects and moving patients; this is what causes back injuries in nurses. They also get in close contact with infectious patients. Therefore they must follow strict rules to keep from getting infected. Classes will teach a future nurse this material.

It takes a lot to become a nurse and get through the process. It all starts with a little research about nursing careers. Students should begin researching in high school on what they may want to do in the medical field. Once they find that out, they can major in nursing once they get to college and begin taking classes that meet their major. Courses in the nursing field are challenging and heavy on content. It is not easy at all as Art Williams states, "I'm not telling you it's going to be easy. I'm telling you it's going to be worth it." Therefore, managing their time, studying, using all their resources to help them understand and get better grades, taking notes, and not procrastinating is helpful. Time management is essential in a student's day to day life. For students to manage their time, there are plenty of websites that can help them so they can build a personal schedule and manage their time. Also, procrastination for students who are majoring in nursing is terrible. Doing work at the last minute can make things harder for a student. Procrastinating gives you less time to get the job done, all of their work piles up and they are now even more stressed out. That is why a student should always get their work done when it is assigned or as soon as possible. Students at all times when needed should use their resources. Here at ODU, we have so many helpful resources that students can use, such as the math center

for tutoring, chemistry tutoring, the writing center where they check students papers and help fix errors on papers so they can get a better grade.

Nursing is critical to all people. There are a ton of different nursing careers, and they all have one specific responsibility that all relates and that would be caring for their patients. Registered nurses assist physicians in providing treatment to patients suffering from various medical conditions. (Jacksonville University 5) With that being said nurses have significant roles in the health environment. Nurses have to monitor patients, give medication, give patients and their family information about their illness. Students who want to become a nurse have to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and take a licensure test and pass it to become a registered nurse. Nurses need to be competent, critical thinkers, exceptional communication skills, and kind-hearted. Nurses with a high ability of expertise are suitable for the medical field because they must be able to think fast and come up with the best and practical ideas for patients. This also goes for being a critical thinker; nurses must be able to think critically and effectively so they can apply proper techniques yet ethical for their specific patients. Critical thinking in nursing is critical. Georgia Vest discusses critical thinking and decision making in nursing, “Nurses are faced with decision-making situations in patient care, and each decision they make impacts patient outcomes. Nursing critical thinking skills drive the decision-making process and impact the quality of care provided.” There are multiple ways to improve critical thinking, and one way is as Eileen Sollars suggests “To improve your critical thinking, pick the brains of the experienced nurses around you to help you get the mindset.”

“Another aid in the development of critical thinking I cannot stress enough is the utilization of the chain of command,” Vest says. “In the chain of command, the

nurse always reports up to the nurse manager and down to the patient care aide.

Peers and fellow healthcare professionals are not in the chain of command. Clear understanding and proper utilization of the chain of command is essential in the workplace.”

Communicating in the medical field is very important because nurses are talking to patient all the time at their job. They should be able to break complicating words down for patients who do not understand what their condition may be.

Classes in the nursing field can be tough. You have to go through degrees, licenses, certifications, registrations, and applications. One must graduate from a nursing program and pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN). Nurses must be certified in certain things such as CPR, basic life support (BLS), and advanced cardiac support (ACLS). Some certifications are voluntary, and some employers require it. There are nursing certifications for different nursing careers. For example, a dialysis nurse must have a certification for this job.

Even once a student becomes a nurse your education does not end. They have to continue to keep their nursing education up to date. As they may forget, there have been new rules in the medical field, or there is a state requirement for it. In most states nurse are required to continue their education every two to three years as a condition of licensure. There are many ways for a nurse to continue their education; such as advancing their degree, obtaining certifications, and having to continue their education. It may be a state requirement in some states for nurses to continue their education. When nurses continue their education, they can improve their lifestyle, as well as getting an increase in their pay. Nurses also have to keep up with better practices as

they change over the years. More new technology advances, further evidence is found and even more, ways to improve the quality of life.

There are many different nursing careers in the nursing field that have different salaries, roles, and requirements to become one. Some may instead want to pursue a career with a high salary. This can't always be easy because, yes they may be making a lot of money, but one has to pursue in a career that they have interest in. So it's always good to volunteer in a hospital and do research to figure out what you have the most interest in and what you are also best in. Nurse Anesthetist provide patients with anesthesia when they are being prepared for surgery. To become one they must have two years of experience in nursing with a BSN before becoming an MSN. This job has a high salary of \$154,300 a year. Pediatric nurses work with young children and children in intensive care. To become one they must at least have a BSN. Must also have training work with children. This job has a salary of \$65,000 a year. This goes to show that different nursing careers have different requirements, and different paying salaries.

Nursing has its pros and cons, but it is all worth it in the end — disadvantages such as working hard to pass difficult classes, managing your time, getting through college. For one to be a nurse they have to take a lot of tests, get certified in whatever they are required to. Some other cons of when a nurse is actually in the field, are having to deal with illnesses, injuries, mean patients, long hours, and back pain. Some pros come with nursing also, such as how much a specific nurse gets paid, their benefits, and if they enjoy their job. We need nurses to perform many different duties for patients. They must have experience in communicating and enjoy to be around people all the time. Nurses make a lot of money more depending on what kind of career they have. It's not easy to become one, but it's all worth it in the end.

References

1. “Academic Success.” *ExploreHealthCareers.org*,
explorehealthcareers.org/your-education/academic-success/.

2. *Jacksonvilleu.com*,

www.jacksonvilleu.com/blog/nursing/how-to-become-a-registered-nurse/.
3. Rao-Fogt, Sunita, and Natalie Sobolewski. "Top 10 Quotes for Nurses." *Chamberlain University, College of Nursing and Health Professionals*,

www.chamberlain.edu/blog/top-ten-quotes-for-nurses.
4. <https://nursejournal.org/>, 2019 NurseJournal.org |. "3 Things To Know About Continuing Education." *2019 NurseJournal.org*, 10 Apr. 2019,

nursejournal.org/articles/3-things-nurses-should-know-about-continuing-education/.
5. <https://nursejournal.org/>, 2019 NurseJournal.org |. "31 Best Specialty Career Choices For Nurses." *2019 NurseJournal.org*, 13 Feb. 2019,

nursejournal.org/articles/31-of-the-best-specialty-career-choices-for-nurses/.
6. "CollegeGrad." *Jobs, Career, Salary and Education Information*, 2019,

collegegrad.com/careers/registered-nurses.
7. "Complete List of Common Nursing Certifications." *Nurse.org*,

nurse.org/articles/nursing-certifications-credentials-list/.
8. "The Importance of Critical Thinking Skills in Nursing." *The Importance of Critical Thinking Skills in Nursing* | *Rasmussen College*,

www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/nursing/blog/understanding-why-nurses-need-critical-thinking-skills/.