

## **Parallel Major**

My intended major is dental hygiene, but my spot is not guaranteed when I apply. With that being said I need a parallel major just in case things do not go as planned. The other major I have an interest in is nursing. This degree is offered at ODU and I would pursue it if I do not get in the dental hygiene program. To become a nurse, you have to be mentally and physically prepared. They stand on their feet for 12 hour shifts and work in a very busy environment. It is also very rewarding because you save many lives and make families happy by helping their loved ones. This career path also pays well. In Virginia Beach the average nurse's salary is anywhere from \$25,000-\$45,000. A fun fact is that nurses walk approximately 5 miles every time they work. Nurses are always on the move when working, they go from room to room assisting patients. This is why they need to wear comfortable scrubs and shoes. There are about 3 million nurses working in this country. Overall, there are 19 million nurses in the world. Nurses do not just work in hospitals they can also work in community healthcare centers, private practices, and home care. Also, many nurses get their jobs through a staffing agency. This is very cool because if they are having trouble finding a job then they have something to turn to.

There are many careers you can go into with a nursing degree. The top three are research nurse, psychiatric mental health nurse, and a physician's office nurse. I would like to be a cancer nurse if this was my parallel major. I chose this because I want to help patients with cancers. Some of my family and my precious dog died of cancer and this touched my heart. They make approximately \$70,000-\$75,000 a year. These nurses look after the symptoms of patients and their side effects of cancer treatments. They must evaluate every patient and take great care of them. The classes for nursing and dental hygiene correspond with each other. Most of the classes I have registered for now also go along with nursing. Instead of taking anatomy 250 I would have to take anatomy 240. To gain professional experiences in this major I could volunteer at the hospital. When I volunteer I can shadow a nurse and watch their daily tasks. I can even become a candy striper where I can assist the nurse. The last thing I can do is find a hospital that is doing internships. This will look great on my application to nursing school. My parallel major is inside of the college of health sciences. With that being said my advisor will be Suzanne Van Orden. Mrs. Van Orden has 2 educational credentials that relate to nursing. For dental hygiene, my advisor is Leanne White. Mrs. White has helped me a lot along the way, but I will gladly convert to Mrs. Van Orden.