

From a College Student To an ICU Nurse a Month After Graduation



My interview was with former student Taylor Howse from the School of Nursing at ODU. She is currently an ICU nurse at Chesapeake Regional Hospital. She graduated with her BSN after 4 years of college, she has her Advanced lifesaving service certification which is needed to be an ICU nurse, and she is an RN. Taylor wanted to be a nurse because of her mom, when she was little she said her mom would tell her stories about the medical field and how much her mom enjoyed it. Another reason why she became a nurse was because she likes to help people who need help. After college she immediately started working as an ICU nurse, she did a walk-in interview at Chesapeake Regional and got the job right on the spot. As an ICU nurse, she has about 2-3 patients a day, and every day they get new patients. Not only do they have to know the patient's need for medication but they have to know when to get the doctors to help assess medical attention when needed. The hardest part of being a part of ICU is seeing the family have so much hope that the patient is gonna get better but everyone else knows that they most likely won't survive and having to let the family know that they aren't getting better. Some advice she wanted to give was to let us know that we have to make time for ourselves and don't feel selfish about it. GPA isn't really what matters it is the experience you have and whether you maintain good habits as a nurse. Everyone always says that nursing school doesn't prepare you for the real world in the hospital which is somewhat true because you can't think in a nursing student aspect, you have to think as a nurse but nursing school gives you the basic foundations you need to be as a nurse which helps you step out of that nursing student aspect.