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Learning Self-Analysis:

When I started the Bachelors program at NYC College of Technology a few years after graduating from the same school for the associate program, I wasn't sure what to expect. I knew it was going to be completely different from my previous degree since it was more theory based. All I was concerned with was receiving my bachelor's degree to be able to compete in the job market. I wasn't sure how I would juggle school, life situations, and work, but I managed. The bachelors program didn't leave me feeling unsure of myself at times, panicky and stressful as if it was the end of the world like the associate program. Here I was able to really look outside the world of just focusing on the procedures of caring for patient's multitude medical and nursing diagnosis. I now had to look past that world and into the bigger picture such as leadership skills, incorporating evidence based practice, the community, and even the financial aspects in healthcare. I never really thought of the budgets each floor face from the cost of gloves to the wages of nurses. I knew it existed but never had a chance to actually see firsthand how it is created, implemented, and its affects on the floor. This was my first taste of looking at the whole aspect of healthcare. During the associates program the interventions that we learned never showed in detail the research that went through to provide us with why we practiced in that manner. Since my courses, I have started to incorporate evidence based research into areas outside of nursing. For example I was able to look up proven methods of teaching techniques for children in the community center I volunteer from time to time. I could have just looked up a regular teaching plan but I wanted to find something that has already been proven effective and is current. Now that I am close to graduating, I can look back and say this program has also ignited more passion in my future career as nurse. I always felt there was more to nursing than just being at the bedside. It's nice to get the experience needed from the bedside but my real passion is giving back to the community. My life has been filled with hardships that I have overcome with the help of others including nurses along the way. I in turn want to give back to others so they can hopefully prosper. I enjoyed the fact that my education pushed me into the reigns of working in the community to propel change in the many social and health issues that plague the US. I did have a little taste of being in the community when I volunteer at a community center and participated in health fairs. All though it was a long journey, I am truly happy with the new insight of the power a nurse like me can have in making a difference.