

As we all know learning is a gift. We have all heard of the popular saying “Knowledge is power” and indeed it is. My innate nature of wanting to take care of animals or people kicked in when I was younger. My grandfather and I discovered an injured bird behind our house and he helped me nurse it back to good health until we were able to set him free. I knew this was when I wanted to be a nurse. Coming from a family of healthcare workers, it has opened my eyes in wanting to be part of the nursing world. Not only is it all blood, sweat and tears during this indescribable journey but also very gratifying to my self-being. Although I am still fairly new in the nursing profession, there is one thing I know for certain and that is I put all my heart and soul into taking care of every patient I have encountered.

After graduating from the Borough of Manhattan Community College in 2010, what I learned from the whole program was that it prepared me for the skills I would encounter in the real world. The Associate’s Degree in Nursing program also prepared us to pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses and tested our knowledge and judgment merely on how competent a nurse would be able to handle the basic entry level of nursing scenarios.

Upon getting accepted into the Baccalaureate program in Nursing at the New York City College of Technology and getting hired to my first nursing position, it seemed overwhelming but I was up for the challenge. The Baccalaureate program has opened my eyes and increased my thirst for learning and I never knew we could do some much more other than bedside nursing. A few of the courses affected me personally. Nursing research made me much more interested in the massive amount of research articles written by our fellow nurses especially those that have based their research on evidence-based practice in trying to provide the best positive outcomes for our patients. Leadership in the management of client care was when I had the opportunity to

shadow two nursing managers that were very involved not only with their own respective units but were very hands on into helping their fellow nursing teams. After all there is no “I” in team. In nursing case management, it seeks to provide the best possible care, with the available resources at a cost-efficient scale and in a timely manner. This made me realize about the importance of understanding budgets and insurance policies and allocating resources. Community and urban health nursing are up and coming areas of nursing. More and more nurses will be seen reaching out to the community, providing teachings, outreach programs and preventative care to the patients and their families. Professional nursing practice has given me the opportunity to learn about the legal issues that entails our profession. We need to learn how to advocate for our patients as well as for ourselves when it comes to dealing with rules and regulations.

As we can see, nursing is constantly changing. There are new nursing sub-specialties and technologies being introduced every day. This baccalaureate program in nursing at the New York City College of Technology has given me the opportunity to expand my horizons. It has made me even more determined to continue onto getting my Master’s degree. It has given me the opportunity to get involved in the community and provide my services to the patients and their families. As nurses, it is our duty to provide the best quality care we can to our patients and their family members and this program has given me the experience to learn, reach out and give back to the community.