The associate’s degree required a year of pre-requisites and then two years of intensive theory and clinical practice. During this time I was exposed to a broad array of physical conditions. The basic nursing process and legal and ethical principles were instilled in me. Each client I encountered left an indelible impression. The numerous exams given in the course of the program prepared me for the NCLEX exam.

 Upon completion of the associate’s program, I recognized the importance of continuing my studies and promptly enrolled in a bachelor’s program. This exposed me to settings in the community and an understanding of environmental and societal conditions that impact upon health. As a result of my bachelor’s studies, I arrived at an understanding of the broad role of nurse in the community.