Learning Self-Analysis

Before I enrolled to RN-BSN program in New York City College of Technology, I was not fully aware of the natural of this program. I have searched the courses that are required for the program, also the brief definition and the purpose of acquiring the Baccalaureate degree in Nursing. American Association of College of Nursing defines BSN as a program that prepares nurses for their skills in critical thinking, leadership, case management and health promotion and for their ability to practice across a variety of inpatient and outpatients settings. I was determined, I knew I would work very hard and put as much effect as I can to get my degree and advance my nursing profession.

I am a staff nurse working full time in the hospital, thus work and school create a tremendous stress in my life. The major barrier for me is language. I am a foreign nurse from China; English is my second language. There is a variety of writing intensive classes in BSN program, English composition, Professional Nursing, Community Nursing, Case management and Nursing Research, etc. These are definitely the challenges to me, and I was always frustrated when I just started. I thought I was not going anywhere.

“Give up”, “drop” and “forgo”, these words were never appeared in my dictionary. Luckily, I have nice professors who are willing to help me and give me valuable advices; I have my co-workers who are able to correct my grammar for my papers; I have my classmates that we can work together, encourage and help each other to get our projects and assignments done. Through these hardships, I have not only learned and improved my writing skills, but also the communication and interpersonal skills.

My experience in BSN program in New York City College of Technology is that self-learning and research are the major parts of our academic education. Professors will not tell us what to do and how to do. Therefore, we need to find the solutions from internet, library and databases; we need to read numerous of articles in order to write a paper; sometimes we need to communicate with our classmates to exchange our self-leaning experience. Although these sound like a lot of work, and they definitely are. Yet I really appreciate these experience, they help me to improve my skills of critical thinking, research, communication, thus to build up my confidence.

Many BSN classes require speaking, presentations and debates. Due to my language barriers and my personal characteristic, I was always nervous and afraid of speaking in public. These mandated speaking and presentations trained me to overcome my fears and be more confident to express my thoughts, ideas and opinions in the class. My skill of speaking not only benefits me in the school, but also my work and my personal life.

Through the BSN program, knowledgeable professors share their professional experience and knowledge with us. I consider this as one of most valuable treasure for myself. These knowledge and experience are something we are not able to learn from the textbook. From their classes, I have expended my view of nursing. I learned that nurses nowadays are not just care givers; we are also leaders, researchers, educators, and consulters.

Now, I am very close to the end of BSN program. I am definitely more familiar with the natural and meaning of the courses and program than when I just started. I have learned and grown many aspects of my professional skills through the BSN program in New York City College of Technology, and I truly believe that these valuable skills will be my foundations to move toward to my professional success.