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Nursing [Career Paper]

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University Experience 175-001

Nursing

Ever since I was a young girl, I knew that nursing was for me. I have always loved helping people and doing everything I possibly could to learn more to help people. When trying to decide what college was right for me I knew that I needed to look at the nursing programs of each of my choices because I have never had a doubt in my mind of being anything else. I decided that Western Kentucky University would be just the right school to help learn as much as possible and challenge me to be a better person and student within the nursing program. Before college, I will have to admit, I never did much research on nursing. I just knew that I wanted to help people in every way possible. I have also always loved children and I believe that I have previous babysitting jobs to thank for this. So as of right now, I plan to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

“Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, facilitation of healing, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations” (American Nurses Association). This definition describes exactly what I have wanted to do for my entire life. I have never actually looked at the statistics of nursing as a career and found the Occupational Outlook Handbook very interesting and helpful. This handbook allows me to see all of the vital statistics of nursing as a career in a quick facts chart. I

learned that the median pay as of 2014 was \$66,640 per year and the job outlook is 16%, which is evidently much faster than average. I have always known that there has been a shortage of nursing and hopefully as soon as I graduate I will be able to find a good career fast.

After researching the vital statistics and what nursing actually is, I went into a little more detail of advanced nursing practice because that is where I hope to be after graduating with a bachelor's degree. I eventually hope to receive my doctorate's degree in nursing practice. "Advanced nurse practitioners are highly experienced and educated members of the care team who are able to diagnose and treat your health care needs or refer you to an appropriate specialist if needed" (Hinchliff). I learned through my article "Advanced or Advancing Nursing Practice: What is the Future Direction for Nursing" that over the past several years, advanced nursing practice has become a much higher demand due to "first, the significant reduction in available doctors; and, second, the rise in numbers of patients with complex health needs." This hopefully means that when I become an advance nurse practitioner that I will be able to help in areas of shortage and allow my abilities to heal and save other people.

After doing all this research, I understand more about the career as a whole and understand what I need to do to get to where I would like to be in my future career. Basically all I knew before this research is that I wanted to help people on a more personal level than a doctor and now I for sure know that nursing and Western Kentucky University can help me do this.

Works Cited

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