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Professional Goals

Like many of us, choosing nursing as a career was brought on by past experiences that made me appreciate the field and its merits. As the oldest of five girls and living in a single-parent household, I was taught responsibility from a very early age. New to this country sixteen years ago, my mom depended on me to run the house and take care of my sisters, while she worked two jobs to support my family. Rather than veering the wrong way, like statistics show occurs with the impact of single parenting, I was determined to find a balance to successfully thrive and live a lucrative life. Through my high school years, I began to realize that the same qualities and actions in my personal life would prove me successful in the field of nursing. I not only upheld a nurturing personality, but I also had the endurance, strong grades, and always conveyed the motto, “Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.” This meant making the best out of my time and optimizing the workload as much as possible in any given moment. As a result of my past, I am able to manage stress in a healthy way and believe the rigorous and intense demands of nursing match my capabilities. Today, as a newly Registered Nurse graduate, I have essential goals that I hope to undertake for as long as I am a nurse. One of my most important goals is to attain core characteristics that define a successful nurse. My second goal is to commit myself to lifelong learning. Third, I want to provide ongoing community service to those in need of medical assistance.

According to the American Nurses Association, nursing is defined as, “Protection, promotion, and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, and populations” (American Nurses Association, 2001, p. 7). A nurse should also be able to explain in her own words what she believes demarcates success in her career. It is my belief that nursing deals with the whole person—body, mind, and soul. It is without a doubt a physically demanding job, but equally as important is the demand for emotional input. My past academic performance, as well as my personal qualities, provides the foundation for my career. A core characteristic needed in the nursing field is teamwork and just as vital is the remembrance that nurses are the liaison between the patients and the doctors. Not only is it important to work well in a team, but it is also significant to seek out help when necessary. Another important quality is the understanding of diversity and the importance of acknowledging and honoring, rather than judging or ignoring, what makes people different. Lastly, the saying, “Measure twice, cut once” goes a long way when discussing safety in nursing. Regardless of how stressed or overwhelmed a person might feel, it is imperative to pay attention to detail to avoid sentinel events or near misses. These are crucial qualities that I hope to attain as a nurse and important goals to conform to throughout my years as a registered nurse.

My second goal is to commit myself to lifelong learning. I strongly believe that education doesn’t end at graduation, rather it continues for as long as you are in the nursing profession. Although I am in no hurry to complete my Masters’ degree due to my decision to acquire nursing experience first, it is part of my plans in the future. Part of being a nurse is the application of knowledge and the continuation of learning. My goal is to make it a point to stay current on education by taking courses, attending conferences, obtaining certifications, as well as joining meaningful nursing organizations. It is also a goal of mine to be a competent nurse. By this I mean to understand the rationale behind everything I do. I believe it is important for a nurse to strive for no medication errors or math errors, for example. This will give a nurse the confidence and the ability to think twice and reduce any nurse slip-ups. By completing this goal, I am advancing my career and expanding my effectiveness as a prosperous nurse.

My third and last goal is to provide ongoing community service to those in need of medical assistance and are less fortunate. It has always been a wish for me to give back to the community or even to travel to impoverished countries to lend a hand. Once I have attained enough nursing skills, I plan to register with disaster registries as well as disaster response organizations. It would be an honor for me to serve deprived and needy people, a way to further define my own meaning of being a registered nurse. Not only am I providing others with comfort, but I am also enhancing my aptitude and preparation in the medical field. This allows me a chance to interact with various people from different backgrounds and provides me with assurance to why I do what I do.

Conclusively, choosing nursing as a career was a result of past experiences, which allowed me to obtain essential qualities to what I believe ascertains a successful nurse. With that being said, I established important goals to remain on this path for success. One of my most important goals is to attain core characteristics that define a successful nurse. My second goal is to commit myself to lifelong learning. Third, I want to provide ongoing community service to those in need of medical assistance. With these goals of attaining important qualities, continually learning, and volunteering, I hope to acquire the characteristics needed to provide my patients satisfaction with their care. Not only am I responsible for coordinating their care, through assessment and identification of their needs, but it is also my duty to become an advocate for my patients.

Resource:

American Nurses Association, 2001.  *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice.*       Washington DC, The Publishing Program of ANA.