**1**

**- Why have you decided to complete your BSN at this time?**

          I’m an ambitious person who is always seeking a higher academic degree in Nursing. Over the recent years, I attempted to join different RN-BSN programs, but the timing was not right. Now that I found the right program at the right time, I am ready to begin my journey. I would like to refer back to my work experience, my current RN / House Manager requires me to have a package of skill sets, along with book knowledge and formal education. Therefore, as a BSN degree holder I will be able to stay up to date with evidence-based practice and nursing competencies as well as be able to advance my leadership roles.

Also, during and after Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a historic shortage of medical fields across the world. So, the escalating need for nursing staff was one of the factors I decided to go back to school and pursue a BSN degree. Employers who experience staff shortage are willing to accept employee’s requirements and accommodate their needs and this will more likely create more favorable terms and work conditions for the staff.

**- Concerns you have about completing your baccalaureate degree?**

          It is more like a challenge than a real concern not being able to find the time to study all course material and be on top of all the course requirements. As anyone else, my life is busy with activities from the very early morning till late nighttime. I’m a busy mother/wife and a part-time nurse, so time management and finding the right work-study-live balance will be my biggest challenge. However, I plan on creating a dedicated study environment with a well defined time schedule for this program.

**- What are some characteristics of successful students?**

          Some characteristics that I will need in order to be a successful student are effective time management, never being late on any assignments, asking the right question, performing due diligence, being organized, and paying attention to details. Also, simply follow directions, course instructions, and stay confident and positive. (Dean et al., 2022)

**- What strategies can you implement to be a successful student?**

           Organization is the key to success. Using organization tools such as Google Drive, Docs, Dropbox, Adobe…..and reminders / calendars will help me prioritize goals and objectives. Also, completing assignments on time, asking the right questions, and seeking help from the support team are critical. Additionally, I will keep the motivation always going and stay positive.

References:

2

**Reason for completing BSN at this time:**

I decided to complete my BSN at this time because I have goals of becoming a leader in my field which requires more certification. Working in the field for a decade now, I feel that there are changes that can be made to make the job of nurses and staff much more efficient and productive. I have raised my children while receiving my degrees and now that they are older I feel that I now have the time to focus on myself and my career. I am very motivated and passionate about nursing and helping patients and I want to use this motivation to be in management where I can also help the nurses.

**Concerns about completing baccalaureate degree:**

This type of course and setting is very new to me. Adjusting to the new way of being online rather than the old fashioned way of attending class in a classroom is both exciting and scary. I am used to the traditional manner of having face to face interaction with my classmates and professor. However, the thing I am enjoying about this online program is that it allows for a more flexible schedule which is helpful since I work full time. I have concerns regarding time management as well but I think I will be able to adjust to this new chapter in my life.

**What are some characteristics of successful students and what strategies can you implement to be a successful student:**

According to Sanders, before beginning the program its very important to implement a few things. Some of those being understanding the amount of time that will be required of us as students during this program and preparing for it. Other preparations include preparing workspace for studying and working on assignments, communicating with family and friends about the "demands of your program" (Sanders, 2019), and planning for child or elderly care.

Other strategies include creating a calendar which includes important assignments and due dates to help track our work. Communicating with faculty when there are any questions or concerns about topics being discussed during class. Most important strategy is to focus. Staying focused by working in a private room or having a focus exercise which keeps away from distractions with help students become successful. I have and will implement these important strategies throughout my educational and professional career to become a successful student.

3

**Discuss why you have decided to complete your BSN at this time.**

It is just recently that I decided to enroll at GCU and start working towards my BSN. I had the feeling of it is now or never. Having graduated with my ADN only a few months ago, my thought was I don’t want to take a break and risk losing perceived momentum. Nursing is a mid-life career change for me, and I feel fortunate having had the opportunity to make it happen. I am hoping to complete my BSN while at the same time gaining tenure in my new nursing position. This will allow me to build a strong foundation of knowledge and skills leading to enhanced patient care. Completing my BSN will also lead to opportunities for job growth and additional compensation.

**Concerns you have about completing your baccalaureate degree.**

I have many concerns about completing my BSN. The biggest is time management. I am worried it will be difficult to find time on the days I am working to dedicate to school. This first week I have quickly realized I will have to dedicate time on Sundays for the first DQ question as I am often scheduled at the beginning of the week. Balancing everything between family, school and work will be a challenge. Organization and planning will be key in ensuring I am able to stay on top of all the requirements.

Writing adequate research papers in APA format is also a concern. I do not have a lot of experience with research papers, and I tend to get overwhelmed with them. Therefore, I can make them unnecessarily time consuming. My goal is to use all tools and resources available to me so that I am not overthinking or taking more time than needed finishing the papers.

**What are some characteristics of successful students and what strategies can you implement to be a successful student?**

Successful students all share common characteristics. According to Stade (2022), there are ten characteristics of a good student. They include having a growth mindset, being brave, being organized, being consistent and persistent, being able to deal with failure, setting goals, connecting what is being learned to life, looking after one’s mental health, partnering with teachers and valuing education. Even though the article is written towards young learners it holds true of learners of all ages.

The strategy I plan to use to address my concern of time management is having a strict, organized calendar. I will use the class calendar in tandem with my schedule to block out specific periods of time needed to work on assignments. For my concern regarding writing papers using APA I have downloaded the GCU provided resource and I can utilize other online websites such as the Purdue Owl. I know the more I write, the more comfortable I will get with APA. I am hoping feedback will be provided as needed so that I can improve and eventually be confident with in-text citations and references.

4

**List three examples of plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the taking of another person’s ideas, words, and/or work and passing it off as one’s own work (Falkner, 2022). There are several different kinds of plagiarism. For example, intentional plagiarism is where someone copied another person’s work as his/her own without giving proper recognition to the original author (Falkner, 2022). Another example is unintentional plagiarism, which is where the person writing the work does not understand when to cite a source, when not to cite source, and paraphrasing without citing the original author (Falkner, 2022). One final example is self-plagiarism, which is where the author is using one of his/her previously published works without citing himself/herself (Office of Research Integrity [ORI], n.d.). In this case, the author is trying to deceive the reader into believing that the piece of work the reader is reading is new (ORI, n.d.).

**Discuss how plagiarizing as a student affects the integrity of a baccalaureate degree, the public perception of the nursing profession, and evidence-based practice.**

As stated above, plagiarism is the taking of another person’s ideas, words, and/or work and passing it off as one’s own whether it is intentional or unintentional (Falkner, 2022). Plagiarism can have a negative effect on the integrity of the baccalaureate degree due to dishonesty by the student. If the student passes off someone else’s work as his/her own and gets away with it, then that degree is kind of worthless. The student did not do the necessary work to get the degree; therefore, he/she did not earn it. This in turn lowers the value of that degree. If it even has any value at that point.

Plagiarism can also have a negative effect on the public’s opinion of the nursing profession.  Nursing is still ranked as being the most honest of the professions (Saad, 2022). In Gallup’s annual poll for honest professions, nursing ranked the highest by the public as having the highest ethical standards (Saad, 2022). If statistics started showing that nurses were plagiarizing their academic work, then they would lose the public’s trust. This is because a dishonest nurse does not always follow workplace policy and often makes poor decisions at the bedside, which could harm the patient (Falkner, 2022). Therefore, in order to maintain the public’s trust, nurses must continue to do what is right every time. This includes giving proper credit to other people’s work when using it to reinforce one’s own work.

Plagiarism can also have a negative impact on evidence-based practice (EBP). A nurse who is too lazy to do his/her own work and is willing to use someone else’s work as his/her own, would be more likely to not always follow EBP. For example, EBP has shown that performing hand hygiene upon entering and leaving a patient’s room helps to prevent the spread of germs (John Hopkins, 2023). A nurse who is too lazy to do his/her own work would be more likely not to always follow this EBP of hand hygiene. The nurse may think that it is okay not to perform hand hygiene because he/she did not touch anything. However, EBP for stopping the spread of germs states, wash hands upon entering and leaving a patient’s room (John Hopkins, 2023). There is no caveat stating this is not necessary if a person does not touch the patient and/or does not touch anything in the patient’s room.

**Describe two APA resources you will use to ensure academic integrity in your work.**

Two American Psychological Association (APA) resources that can be used to ensure academic integrity in one’s own work are LopesWrite and the APA manual itself. LopesWrite is resource created by Grand Canyon University (GCU) in order to help students with their written assignments. It not only helps with grammar and spelling, but it also helps with preventing plagiarism by checking the student’s work against a database of other works (Grand Canyon University [GCU], 2017). The APA manual is the official source for using APA style. It can help with a person with writing, citing, and referencing papers to help avoid plagiarism (American Psychological Association [APA], 2019).

5

**Three Examples of Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is essentially a form of idea theft as one calls someone else’s idea their own without crediting the author (Smriti, 2020). The three examples of plagiarism include self-plagiarism, paraphrasing without proper citation, and cut-and-paste.

Self-plagiarism is when one turns in an old paper written earlier and submits it as an assignment. Lopeswrite has a record of everything uploaded so that this paper would have a high similarity score.

Paraphrasing without proper citation is another example of plagiarism. Paraphrasing is essentially rewording the ideas into one’s own words rather than copying word by word. Despite not copying, it is still essential to give credit to the author via proper citations.

Cut-and-paste is when one cuts/copies information, word-by-word, from somewhere, pastes it into the paper and calls it their own. In this case, they need to paraphrase and give proper citations to give credit.

**How Plagiarizing Affects the Integrity of a BSN**

BSN essentially teaches its students how to process information and write scholarly while honing their critical thinking skills and comprehension in nursing. Understanding and picking out relevant articles to whatever they are researching further help prove their standing through scholarly writing. However, when they start plagiarizing, it demonstrates that the students need to comprehend what they are reading and thus not think critically. Even if they graduate, they will not fully understand and appreciate the ideas behind evidence-based practices. This action can result in the public questioning the esteemness of a BSN.

**How Plagiarizing Affects the Public Perception of the Nursing Profession**

According to Gallup News, nursing continues to be a profession that the public believes to be ethical and honest (Saad, 2022). This is not surprising as the nursing profession is known to be “based on ethics, integrity, and trust” (Dean et al., 2022, p. 15). When nurses plagiarize, they demonstrate to the public that they are anything but ethical, integral, or trustworthy. How can one be trusted when one steals others’ ideas without citing them? How can one be trusted when one cannot grasp the concept of evidence-based practice to provide safe care? Nurses must serve as role models to continue the esteemed reputation of nurses.

**How Plagiarizing Affects Evidence-Based Practice**

When students plagiarize, they do not understand the information they read, defeating the purpose of learning evidence-based practice (EBP) during BSN. They are also not demonstrating how to think critically and comprehend the associated EBP to improve patient outcomes. They continue to be task-focused rather than an educated problem solver (Dean et al., 2022). Due to this lack of knowledge and critical thinking, these graduates may also be less likely to appreciate the importance of evidence-based practices and how patient outcomes can be increased (Dean et al., 2022). This action decreases the quality of care that all patients are entitled to receive.

**2 APA Resources to Ensure Academic Integrity**

Throughout my ADN, I have used both Purdue OWL and the APA manual 7th edition to help write APA-style papers. I will continue to utilize them throughout the rest of my education. Purdue OWL is a website made by Purdue University with comprehensive APA formatting and style information. It is credible and has papers with sample formatting and styles. I will also use the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA manual) 7th edition to help me get through BSN. It is the official guide to APA style and has comprehensive information to help students succeed in generating APA-style papers.

References:

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