What to expect during Nursing School

As a nursing student you have already demonstrated a great deal of academic excellence and study skill success. It is not easy to complete the requirements to be accepted into JSCC’s nursing program so, CONGRATULATIONS!

Many of the study skills and academic knowledge that you have learned as you pursued acceptance into the nursing program will help you complete the program. That being said, NUR 112, 113, 114, 115, 211, 221 are courses that you have to develop, adopt, or expand new study strategies and critical thinking skills as well.

BE PREPARED TO BE OVERWHELMED!

The amount of information reviewed in lecture, addressed in your course materials, and your clinical experience may be overwhelming.

You will buy an e-text package prior to NUR 112 that you will use for the entire nursing program. There are a lot of textbooks, websites, and other study tools that you will have exposure to as you complete your degree. You may not use all the textbooks each semester. Be sure to speak with your nursing instructor to determine which books you should be using for the semester you are completing.

Be prepared to spend a lot of time studying and preparing for clinical. Many nursing graduates have reported spending 18 – 25 hours per week in studying and clinical preparation. Additional hours in the week for nursing students are required including attending lecture on campus and clinicals in a medical or hospital environment. With that said the time requirements for nursing school are equal to a full-time job!

Time Management Issues & Strategies

Time management involves understanding how you CHOOSE to spend your time, setting goals and prioritizing, and having the motivation to change your behaviors. We all have the same amount of time each week – 168 hours. Some people use their time wisely while other people do not know how their time is spent. To become a better time manager, you must first understand how you are currently spending your time. Once you understand how you are spending your time, you can start to make decisions on how you CHOOSE to spend your time. A discussion of time management goes hand in hand with a discussion of goal setting and prioritizing goals and activities.

As a nursing student, your goal is to complete the nursing program successfully. This program is very academically demanding and time consuming as demonstrated by the amount hours required per week in studying, attending lectures, and clinical. Successful nursing students must learn how to balance school with other life activities (work, family, etc.). As important that family and work are, your main priority is to complete your nursing class each semester. It is vital for you to really think about the time commitment of the nursing program and make
decisions about how your time will be spent during the semester. *Most, if not all nursing students will have to make sacrifices in regard to spending time with their family and some work commitments.*

It is important for you to think about the following issues prior to the start of the semester.

- Your schedule
- Family and work commitments
- Academic goal

*Keep in mind each semester will be different*