

CAREER  
LINKS



Career Development  
Center

Conversations about Career Success...with Faculty



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**What was your college major?**

Both my Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees are in Nursing. I minored in Spanish in college.

**Did this major lead you to your current career?**

Yes, after graduating from nursing school I worked in a hospital for several years caring for oncology patients. I then took a job with a pharmaceutical company; first in sales, and then in marketing. When my father required hospice care, we moved him to our home where we cared for him until his death. That experience reconnected me with my passion for patient care, and I re-entered the patient care arena working in the emergency department. It was because of my networking that I became involved in teaching at JCCC. I love that my teaching position allows me the opportunity to combine teaching students and providing patient care!

**What are the characteristics that your most successful students possess?**

My most successful students are those who communicate a desire to learn and a willingness to apply what they learn. Students who communicate either in their words or with their demeanor that they already know it all and don't care to learn any more are the students that struggle the most. The students who take personal responsibility for their learning are the ones that succeed.

**Name three things a student should know when exploring this career.**

I always give my students the following advice:

1. Ultimately, it is not about you. It is about patients for whom you care for and do what is best for them.
2. Knowledge and skills will come with time and experience. It is best to focus on learning how to interact effectively with others.
3. You are the one who can decide whether you will be successful or not in the nursing profession. It is entirely up to you.

**What skills will a student learn when pursuing this career?**

Students will learn a lot of science, some math and also strengthen lots of psychomotor and critical thinking skills. The most successful students will learn how to work with and interact with people of all different types.

**For a student needing part-time employment while in college, what types of jobs provide the best experiential learning opportunities?**

Students pursuing any health care profession would benefit the most from working in the field of health care. Becoming immersed in a work environment that is focused on patient care offers the best learning experience. Examples of jobs include: nursing assistant, laboratory technician, medical secretary, home health aide.

**If a college student is unable to find related work experience in this career field, how do you suggest he/she prepare for the workplace?**

Consider volunteering in a health care setting. Activate a network with others to identify opportunities for firsthand experiences with a role model in a health care environment. Seek out jobs that work with the public to gain awareness of diversity, respect for others, and begin to learn how to serve people even when they are not at their best.

**Is there a selection process for entering this program?**

Yes, there is a selection process to apply for the JCCC Nursing Program according to established deadline dates. Candidates are selected based on their grade point average (GPA), ACT scores, and scores from a personal interview. Completion of pre-requisite coursework and Certified Nurse Aide (CAN) training is required as part of the application process.