

Transcription details:

Date: 13-May-2016
Input sound file: SON Recording - Testimonial (REFERENCE)

Transcription results:

S1 00:01 Hi, my name is Shannon Packard with Kaplan University. I'm the Director of Nursing at the Prelicensure BSN program in Augusta, Maine. Today, I'm going to discuss the School of Nursing program at Kaplan University. I'm going to talk a little bit about the role that faculty members play in helping to prepare both current and future nurses for career opportunities and advancement. I'd also like to share some valuable advice, for both current and future nurses, from my own experience.

S2 00:33 What should a new student entering the Kaplan University nursing program expect?

S1 00:40 A new student entering the Kaplan University nursing program should expect a very supportive team, all the way from the advisement team through the administration. They should expect an advising team that helps to guide them along the way so that they have the best outline of their program, so that they're able to select the courses that are going to align with their lifestyle needs so that they can achieve success. They should expect a faculty that is supportive and caring, that really helps to empower them to see their own abilities so that they can understand the capacity that they have to be successful in that program. They should see a faculty that is going to strive to help them to have everything that they need so that they can transition from academia to practice when they complete the program. They should have a faculty that is current in practice. They'll be able to see that they're providing them with the latest clinical, evidence-based practice information so that they can be the best practitioners possible when they graduate from the program. They should see an administration that is equally supportive, as the advisement team in the faculty, that ensures that they have an environment that's conducive to learning, that they have a voice that they feel heard, that when they make any type of feedback, when they provide any information on an evaluation, that it's read, that it's listened to, that the changes that are made on each of the campuses or in the online environment are made based on the feedback of students so that we are truly making sure that they have all of the tools in their toolbox, that they have all of the support that they need to truly achieve that success that they set out to achieve when they enroll in the nursing program.

S2 02:39 What are some emerging trends in the nursing profession, and how do you help prepare student nurses for these trends?

S1 02:47 Some of the emerging trends in the nursing profession are length of stay and the acuity of the patients that we're providing care for. So with the way that healthcare has kind of transformed, patients are sicker, and they're staying less time. In order to really be a safe, effective practitioner, nurses need to have the highest level of competency of skills. They need to be well-versed in technology. They need to be true patient advocates which means they have to have an understanding of the disease processes, the care path that these patients are going to take, and they need to also be well-versed in the socioeconomic situation of their patients. So they have to be connected to their communities.

How do we teach our students to be able to face these emerging trends? We provide them with opportunities of clinical in every single one of their courses. And each of these clinicals provides the opportunity for a student to care for these high, acuity patients to understand the community in which they come from, to look at the care that is provided, to understand their place on that team, that healthcare team, so that we can really make sure that as we step into the world of healthcare as nursing professionals, we are truly advocating for our patients to receive the best care, to make sure that all of the tests have been done. We provide the students with a comprehensive course in pathophysiology and in microbiology so that they understand disease processes and how they work, and they can understand the patho behind that so that as they're communicating with physicians, they're well-informed. They have the information that they need to make recommendations. In each of the courses, the progression through the nursing program, each course gets a little bit harder. The expectations of the students become a little bit more. So they're really having to engage their previous knowledge and build on that, instead of just moving from one course to another. We have a community health course where we really focus on public health. We really look at the cultures that we're serving within our areas that the students are participating in their clinical experiences. This gives them the opportunity to have a better understanding of what their role is, as a professional, in the communities that they live and that they serve.

S2 05:28

In addition to providing students with the necessary skills and knowledge, how do you prepare them to be leaders in their chosen field?

S1 05:38

In addition to skills and knowledge, students at Kaplan University School of Nursing are taught to be leaders in a variety of ways. We begin our program with a course that is required of all students, that really talks about professionalism and their role as a professional within the field of nursing. Nursing is a field where students really have to embrace the fact that when they graduate, they step into a leadership role, not necessarily management, not necessarily anything that comes with a title, per se, but as a nurse, we are leaders in our community. We are leaders that represent our patient populations, be that in community health, or in hospitals, or in specialty areas like obstetrics, and in physician's offices, in schools. We own the responsibility to make sure that our patients are receiving the care that they deserve, that they are being treated fairly, that they are being looked at as an entire holistic package. Nurses really encompass or epitomize holistic care in healthcare. We are that touch point. We are the eyes and the ears of the physician. We are the advocate for the patient that helps them to navigate through the healthcare system. We help them to understand what their rights are. While doing this, we have to also really embody empathy and compassion. Regardless of where they come from or why they are there, we treat every single patient the exact same way, and in order to truly do that, you have to have leadership skills. So we teach our students in both theory and clinical throughout the program, how to really hone these skills, how to really be professionals, how to communicate in a therapeutic way as well as in a professional way. We really emphasize the importance of being able to communicate orally as well as in a written format, and the importance of body language, and really being non-judgmental and open. Those are all key leadership characteristics that you can't necessarily just expect from anybody, but it is expected in the profession of nursing. Therefore, that's how we really teach them to be leaders from the beginning all the way through the program so that when they graduate and they step into their role, they're able to really embody that as a professional.

- S2 08:22 How can advancing one's current skills and knowledge enhance opportunities for experienced nurses?
- S1 08:31 Enhancing skills and knowledge as an experienced nurse can help a nurse to bring more to the bedside. There is research that shows that the higher level of education a nurse achieves, the better the patient outcomes. And the reason that that research is so strong is because you're a better communicator, you have a broader knowledge base, you have a greater understanding of the treatment modalities that are current in practice today. So as you're providing care for patients, and you're increasing your education level, you increase all of your skills, not just the task skills, but the ability to communicate and understand where your patient's coming from, the ability to teach, the ability to advocate for them so that when they leave the hospital, they have more information and a better understanding to better care for themselves so they can have a greater quality of life each time they encounter that nurse that has a higher level of education. It provides an opportunity for nurses to really be able to give back to the profession. As nurses, as you continually learn, we bring back the latest research, the evidence-based practice, to improve practice so that we can improve patient outcomes. That's really the ultimate goal, is to make sure that our patients are receiving the best care, that when they leave, they're in a better shape than when they came in, and that they have a higher level of quality of life and a greater understanding of how to provide care for themselves.
- S2 10:12 What's your best educational advice for both current and future nurses?
- S1 10:19 My best educational advice for current and future nurses is to never stop learning, to always strive to improve your practice, to always strive to gather a better understanding of your patient's diagnoses, of the comorbidities that are associated with that, to have a higher level of understanding of medications and how they interact, to broaden your understanding to include herbal remedies and some of the Eastern medicine because it's really starting to integrate into healthcare in the United States. And we need to have an understanding of that so that we can provide our patients with the best information. If you're a new nurse, then recognize that you will never know everything. If you ever get to that place where you think you know everything, it is time to change professions because nursing is forever changing, new trends are constantly emerging, and it's so important that we recognize the importance of research, of staying current, of looking for information, for recognizing that it's okay to not know something. It's more important to know where to find the information than to think that you have to know it all. For current nurses, recognize that the new nurses that are entering our profession, they have a lot to bring and a lot to offer. So embrace them. Be mentors. Acknowledge that nursing is a tough field, but everyone has a little bit of something to offer. Be yourself and bring yourself. Don't hide behind the books and the knowledge that you gain, but allow yourself to embrace the fact that nursing is not just a profession. It's not a career choice. It's who we become. It's part of who we are, and that is what part of the beauty of the profession of nursing.