

Sample Essay for Nursing Scholarship Application

It was a typical year for me at the time, struggling to support my family. "What do you want to be when you grow up?" is a question I have been asked countless times as a child and young adult. The desire to help others along with the strong work ethic instilled by my parents continues to drive me into furthering my education in hopes of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Some may define the role of a nurse as being one that cares for those who are sick or infirmed, but it can be much more than this. Nurses care for and treat all types of patients ranging from healthy adults and children to elderly and terminally ill individuals. Nurses perform duties that are both physical and emotional. They also oversee the management of care to ensure that it is up to date and in compliance with Board of Nursing Standards (BNS).

Many professions require working long hours, but nurses take this a step further by often working 12 hour night shifts while dealing with several patients simultaneously needing assistance during critical times. If that wasn't enough, they then have to wake up early for their next shift day or night depending on their preference. All this does not even include the time required to complete paperwork which can sometimes take more time than patient interactions. And lastly, they must attend continuing education courses throughout their career in order to maintain competency and certification.

Although challenging, nurses are very capable of meeting all the demands required. Every person is unique in how they handle stress and this is no different for nurses. Nurses can

perform well despite experiencing emotional or physical stress due to proper support systems, time management skills, and work-life balance practices.

This past year I worked as a Patient Care Assistant at a local hospital while attending school part-time for my nursing degree. My duties included ensuring patients were comfortable, following doctors orders on medications and treatments, taking patient vitals such as temperature and blood pressure, checking that suction machines were working properly if needed, making sure that oxygen levels were appropriate for patients who use it, recording their intake and output, and providing assistance as needed for those patients who were mobile.

This experience helped me to realize that I am capable of managing my time effectively despite working a part-time job along with having a family and attending school full-time. If given the opportunity, I would like to continue my education and become a Nurse Practitioner (NP) in order to provide optimal care to all those we serve. The NP role is vital due to their ability to assess patient needs and develop individualized care plans which include medical diagnosis and treatment of disease or injury. They also educate patients on various aspects of their own health such as diet, hygiene, medication effects, or lifestyle modification.