

Nursing School Advice

Here is some advice for nursing students from older nursing students. These are just helpful tips that may be useful to those who are looking for some guidance regarding nursing school. If you have any other ideas for future advice, email cnsacomm@gmail.com.

1. General Advice for New Nursing Students:

- Make a calendar of all important due dates and tests at the start of the semester
- Start studying early, don't wait until the weekend before a test
- Make sure to go to office hours and skills lab when needed
- Studying in groups is a great way to help learn information you are struggling with
- Make sure you know your priorities for school but also make sure to take care of yourself mentally and physically
- Get involved with clubs or hobbies outside of nursing to give yourself a break from the constant stress of nursing
- Be happy to be learning, the more positive the attitude, the easier it will come to you
- Remember that you are learning for your career, not just another test
- Don't sweat the small stuff, look at the bigger picture and learn from your mistakes, we all make them
- Don't give up and stay encouraged. It may be rough, but you can do it!

2. Clinical Advice:

- The night before clinical, make a pile of everything you need such as stethoscope, any worksheets, your badge, etc. That way you won't forget anything in the morning.
- Make a "brain" to use to organize your day and patient information by system.
- While at clinicals, it is important to be confident but also don't be afraid to ask questions when unsure about something.
- Try to stay with your primary nurse to learn time management and managing multiple patients.
- Always volunteer to help other nurses out if you are having a slow day. Volunteer yourself for skills even if you are nervous because you learn best from practicing.
- Make sure you have practiced your skills in skills lab or watch youtube videos at the start of a new semester before clinicals start.
- Utilize pre-planning to learn as much as you can about your patient before taking care of them. It will make clinical day much more meaningful and sometimes easier.
- Know any medications your patient is receiving because the nurse may ask you about them, plus it is a great way to learn common medications.
- And most importantly, have fun and take advantage of the learning experiences!

3. Ways to study for nursing tests:

- If allowed, record lectures during class and listen to them before a test
- Make quizlets and then study them. You will remember a lot after making quizlets.
- Study as a group and ask each other questions. You will remember better if you try to explain a concept to a fellow student.
- Making paper flashcards for vocabulary terms
- Go to office hours to see previous mistakes and also ask the professor for the rationale for the right answer will help you understand the critical thinking for future tests
- Make handwritten notes or study guides
- Copy over information from a powerpoint lecture to a word document to make it easily readable and then add in what the professor says during lecture

