

Educational and Professional Goals Follow-Up

Danielle Phillips-Skiba

Old Dominion University

Educational and Professional Goals

It is clear that nursing is my calling. Helping others is in my nature. Problem solving feeds my soul. I still use my experiences with my mom's cancer to guide me in providing compassionate patient centered care. When I first wrote about my goals, I was a new grad nurse on a med-surg/neuro unit. At present, I am a Trauma Step Down nurse and I am absorbing so much knowledge. Each day brings it's own challenges.

Through the BSN program at ODU, I have improved in research skills and APA writing. These skills will help me as I am now a member of the Nursing Practice Council, as part of my clinical ladder duties at work. Additionally, I am on my Unit Based Council's Onboarding Committee. Here, I am able to help new nurses and CNAs learn the unit and policies before providing patient care. One of my original goals was to learn leadership skills needed to climb the ladder in nursing. ODU has helped me achieve this, as I am now working on the clinical ladder. However, I did not take the business management class that I had planned to. I instead chose electives about drug use and behavior, as these classes strongly applied to my work at the bedside.

Previously, I had stated that my goal was to get my MSN as a nurse educator. While I do love teaching, I plan to take a couple more years to be sure that this is what I want to do. Soon, I'll be out on maternity leave. My plan is to complete the Critical Care Internship upon returning to work, and then going to work in the Medical Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit. After experience here, I believe I'll be more sure of what I'd like to do for my MSN. What stands true regardless is that nursing is more than a career for me, it is a calling. And I couldn't be more thrilled to see where this journey takes me.