

Career Spotlight Interview Questions

What education have you completed? Do you plan to continue?

- AA general from Clark College
- AAS in Nursing from Clark College
- BSN from Washington State University, Vancouver
- Currently working on my Masters of Science in Nursing at Western Governors University, estimated graduation in 2016

What was your career path? How did you get to where you are now at Clark College?

I went back to school when I lost my job in 2006. I decided I could go get just another job or I can change my life. Four years were going to pass regardless, in the end I would either be something or not. I started general classes and chose a nursing path in 2007. I worked part time at Clark College, full time school and raising three young children. I utilized career services multiple times for resume and job fair access. I fully support students and job seekers to utilize these services to gain employment in the environment they want most; they work!

What do you do in your current position?

I am a staff nurse at Emanuel Hospital in a cardiac progressive care unit.

What do you love about your job?

Every day is something new. Each patient presents with different symptoms, background and offers an opportunity for me to learn new things. Sometimes it can be very high paced and acting quickly, being knowledgeable and applying clinical judgment can save lives. Getting my degree in nursing has changed my life and will forever change the lives of my children simply by allowing me to do more for them through their formative years. I love my job. I love what I do and, ultimately, I know that if that changes I can easily change to something else within the field.

What are some challenges in your current position?

Our patients can be challenging and require a lot of teaching, patience and faith in their desire and ability to take care of themselves when they leave.

How do you balance work/life?

When I am home, I am home with my family. I try to not take work home with me and when I do I discuss it with fellow health professionals and not my family. I try to completely disengage and relax when I am not at work.

If someone is considering this career – what should they know?

Choosing a nursing career gives enormous flexibility in that you can choose so many paths once graduated, such as pediatrics vs mother and baby. You can also choose a facility, such as hospital vs health nurse at a facility or school. There are also opportunities in teaching and business. So many different care opportunities in one degree. It is a considerable amount of work to get here, it may seem impossible, but keep moving forward, it is worth it!