The nursing program has two major parts:

1. **The academic**: Theoretical learning in the classroom from textbooks.
2. **The clinical**: Work in area hospitals and college laboratory under instructor supervision.

The student actually does in the hospital what is learned in the classroom. To succeed, students must be capable in BOTH the academic and the clinical areas.

### A. HOURS PER WEEK IN THE NURSING PROGRAM:

Students have clinical work in the hospital two or three days per week for eight hours a day. Usually, the time is 7:00 AM until 3:30 PM, but students may also be required to work on the evening shifts. Class on campus will typically involve the other 2-3 days of the week. Class attendance is recorded. Excessive illness or absence will jeopardize your progress in the nursing program.

### B. TIME REQUIRED FOR STUDYING AT HOME:

Each week the student is expected to learn a great deal of theory and application of nursing knowledge. Study time of about 20 hours or more a week must be found by the student before or after classes, evenings, and weekends. Plan for a quiet place to study with no interruptions. Sometimes this means studying at the library.

### C. PLANNING YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES OUTSIDE THE PROGRAM:

1. **Part time work.** The course is so demanding of time and energy that very few students find they have a part time job outside the first year of nursing. A few work one or two days a week, but this is not recommended. Students who attempt to work more than eight hours per day find that their constant state of fatigue interferes with their performance in the program.

2. **Money to live on during the year.** Expenses for routine living and for uniforms, books and other fees will add up quickly. Take time to determine your financial needs and resources. Make realistic plans for covering unexpected expenses. The Financial Aid office will assist you in applying for help. Applications should be in early as it takes several weeks for processing. They will help you determine what resources you may qualify for and what scholarships may be available.

3. **Transportation to the hospital(s) and school.** To begin the day at the hospital, it is important to arrive very early – before 7:00 AM (or 3:00
PM) to be ready for your assignment. Adequate transportation is necessary since students must provide their own means of getting to the various hospitals at the assigned time.

4. Care of young children (if applicable). Because the hours at the hospital are so early, sometimes very late at night, it is advisable to find someone who can be a very reliable babysitter. Consider childcare plans and backup plans very carefully.

5. Family’s understanding. The student has more than a full-time job with hospital, work, classes, and studying. There is constant pressure. The student is often tired and always busy. If the family is understanding, will help with household responsibilities, and not be hurt or angry at receiving less attention than they usually receive from the student, it will be of great help to the student.

D. YOUR SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR:

These tips are meant to help you plan your first year realistically and responsibly. The areas mentioned above are often the source of difficulties for students, that is, they find it necessary to withdraw from the program for these reasons. The college offers counseling, tutoring, financial aid, and other supports for the students but the ultimate responsibility is the students’. The instructor and the counselors are available to assist you as much as possible in meeting your career goals. Be sure to seek assistance and counseling should difficulties arise.

E. THE STUDENTS’ EXPECTED REWARDS:

The nursing career you have chosen is full of potential fulfillment and satisfaction. The personal effort you invest will be rewarded many times over as you work and care for others. As you grow and learn about yourself and nursing as a career you will find yourself among professionals who have the common goal of helping and caring for others. This brings you a great sense of accomplishment.

The Faculty

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