

Title of the

Paper

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Title of Paper

Example

The purpose of this synthesis paper is to show my readers what I have accomplished during my graduate program at Thomas Edison State College (TESC). It integrates all my course work, on-ground practicum experience, and professional nursing practice during this time, which provides an overall picture of how I achieved my Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Outcomes and Nurse Educator Track Competencies. This paper will identify my personal philosophy of nursing education and give a brief summary of my professional achievements. Finally, it will conclude with my mission, vision, and values related to nursing and nursing education.

Personal Philosophy of Nursing Education

Example

Through education and experience, I have acquired the knowledge, skills, and expertise that have made me a competent acute care nurse. This has formed the basis of my personal philosophy of education. This philosophy embraces the uniqueness of every individual and the belief that everyone has the potential to enhance his or her knowledge if guided in the right direction. Based on this, my goal as an educator is to use innovative instructional approaches to ensure that the quality of knowledge I impart to my students is maximized. Instead of the traditional teacher-centered approach, my teaching will be flexible and based on theories that encourage a student-centered learning environment. I will facilitate my learner's acquisition of new knowledge by identifying his or her individual learning style and present materials that stimulate his or her involvement. This will create an environment that fosters learning. As I teach my students the value of reflecting on their experiences, I will also reflect on aspects of

my teaching to identify areas needing adjustment. My ultimate goal is to become an effective educator. I am confident that my hard work will produce nurses who will be agents for clinical and nursing educational change.

Summary of Professional Achievements

Example

My first professional achievement during the MSN program was applying to the school. I had been a nurse for 23 years and obtaining my masters was always a goal but something I believed was almost unattainable. Life, work, money and children always seemed to get in the way. Finally, as the children were getting older, I knew it was time for me to do something for myself. I was proud, honored, and very nervous at the same time. Four years ago, I obtained my Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN) certification. It had been a long time since I had been in any type of formal schooling; however, I knew that when I set my mind to something that I would work very hard and do anything to accomplish that goal. So I began my journey at Thomas Edison State College for my MSN in nursing education. My first professional goal achieved!

Although I already had my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, I had not been in a formal college class for many years. The first class that I signed up for was NUR-500: Seminar in Clinical Competencies. I read the syllabus and thought that I was prepared. I love reading and enjoyed writing papers; however, the computer was a whole different story. I never considered myself computer savvy and only used a computer at work to chart and document on patient record. Thus, I began my computer and technology journey in an online nursing program. I found the blackboard fairly easy to manage, although sending the papers was trying and at times very frustrating. I finally accomplished this task when I learned I had

to submit my papers to the e- Portfolio. I had a very difficult time following the computer directions and became very upset and exasperated. I needed to ask my children and anyone who was capable on a computer to help me figure this out. With many hours, days, weeks, and even months of work, I have now become fairly proficient in the ways of online learning. To this day, I feel this is one of many major accomplishments I have achieved over the years of online learning. I feel confident and competent on computers and now help others including my children with paper submission as well as co-workers who are attending online schools.

Every class during my journey to obtaining my MSN has been rewarding and beneficial, both on a personal and professional level. I have learned and achieved goals that were unimaginable when I began this program. One of my proudest accomplishments is visually seeing the difference in my American Psychological Association (APA) format from the beginning of the program to the completion of the program. Reviewing old assignments and seeing my growth is both rewarding and gratifying at the same time. Much of the time, reflection allows me to use APA format without checking a book or computer for citation verification. Understanding and using APA format is a work in progress, and is something that I will continue working on in the future as a lifelong learner.

Another academic and professional achievement occurred when I developed my first PowerPoint presentation. Putting the information on a display that students and staff can visually see and appreciate is very gratifying. Incorporating photos, graphs, and statistics allows the students to learn and interact with important information that is required in the classroom. As the semesters went on, PowerPoint presentations allowed me to organize my thoughts and use them as a reference point when teaching a practicum class. Looking back, the

knowledge that I have acquired and incorporated into my classes is astonishing and rewarding at the same time. On a professional level, I am now working on a PowerPoint presentation for the medical center. I am part of a committee that is establishing a nursing theorist as an element for the hospital to acquire Magnet Recognition.

The specialty nursing education classes are where I learned about nursing theories, curriculum development, testing assessment, and teaching. Every class prepared me to be a future nurse educator. Their numerous responsibilities include designing curricula, developing courses and programs of study, teaching and guiding learners in the development of tests, engaging in peer review, and maintaining clinical competencies (Bastable, 2008). They assure quality educational experiences that prepare nurses for careers as healthcare professionals. Nurse educators are professionals who combine clinical expertise with a passion for teaching students and staff in a variety of nursing fields.

NUR-730: Nursing Education Seminar & On-ground Practicum has afforded me the opportunity to work with a mentor in the nursing education department. Participating in her daily activities allowed me to see the incredible achievements and accomplishment that nurse educators do while working. She continually updated pamphlets for the nurses, set-up and revised classes, and scheduled meetings for the staff. After I arrived home, I completed my practicum journal and log assignments that needed to be submitted throughout the semester. Many more hours were spent on developing a lesson plans, pre-and-post-tests, outlines, and evaluations for the classes that I taught. All of these learning experiences have prepared me to educate future nursing students or staff in the healthcare environment.

Reflecting on professional achievements that I have attained over the last two years is incredible. I have learned so much both personally and professionally since attending this

online education program. I feel knowledgeable using a computer and developing PowerPoint presentations which are currently so important. I have learned that nurse educators love to teach students and staff, ultimately expanding their knowledge. I learned that hard work and achievements are valued in the nursing profession.

Academic Achievement of MSN Outcomes and Specialty Tracks Competencies

MSN Outcome 1: (Use the short or long title of the outcome)

Example

Throughout the Masters of Science in Nursing Program, I applied research methods to complete assignments and papers. Research is required to obtain evidence, so that best practice can be provided in caring for patients. In Nur-530: Evidence Based Nursing Practice, I selected a topic relative to my work as a hospice nurse, and I utilized research methods to determine what clinically would provide the best outcome for the patient. In my paper “Revised Proposal for Evidence Based Research” I proposed the question “In patients at end of life, does continuing or discontinuing enteral feedings provide greater comfort in the last few days”? Utilizing Emanuel and Emanuel’s Framework for a Good Death (1998), I developed a qualitative study to obtain the evidence needed to determine the best outcome.

In my paper “Analysis of Evidence,” I researched current articles and studies to determine that best practice is not to continue enteral feeds at the end of life. Every article and study agreed that enteral feeds cause discomfort at the end of life. A study by Sampson, Candy, and Jones (2009) found that enteral feeds might actually increase the death rate, increase the number of new illnesses, and reduces quality of life.” With the evidence I obtained, I was able to educate and inform my staff on best practice. I was also able to utilize this evidence in educating staff at different nursing homes. Many staff members felt we were

starving our patients at the end of life, which made the patient uncomfortable, the staff was set in their beliefs. Utilizing Roger's change theory (Oguejiofo, 2012), I was able make them aware of the evidence, which sparked their interest and allowed them to understand and adopt best practice of discontinuing enteral feeds at the end of life. As a hospice nurse, this was a great outcome for me as I continually strive to do what is best for the patient at the end of life.

In this outcome, I was able to integrate the following nurse educator competencies:

2. Facilitate learning in individuals and groups using theories of education, nursing, testing and evaluation, and technological innovation.
4. Utilize research to analyze the outcomes of nursing interventions and improve nursing practice and nursing pedagogy.
6. Utilize theories of change to advance the profession of nursing.

MSN Outcome 2: (Use the short or long title of the outcome)

(No Example)

MSN Outcome 3: (Use the short or long title of the outcome)

(No Example)

MSN Outcome 4 (Use the short or long title of the outcome)

Example

In NUR- 501: Emerging Trends and Healthcare Policy, I was able to explore many of the various external influences on healthcare today. In one assignment, I penned a press release informing the public about an informatics upgrade coming to the Medical Center. While this was an assignment of my imagination, it is heartening to realize that many of the advances mentioned in my fictitious account have actually come to fruition. In another assignment, I was given a case study to explore. I was the Chief Nurse Officer of a major facility and received a

ten million dollar donation to be used for nursing. In my case study, I explored the areas in need of financial support, and I developed a plan to identify and meet the most pressing needs of my institution. I demonstrated an understanding of change theory by including all stakeholders in the change process and reinforcing and rewarding behaviors.

I also had the opportunity to analyze the federal budget allocations for trauma care, and in my paper “Traumatic Budget Cuts,” I described the impact these funding levels could potentially have on the delivery of adequate trauma care in the United States. I believe that it is important that we maintain a level of understanding of the budgeting process both in our institutions and our government. When we understand the process and the implications of all of these decisions, we can better advocate for our patients and our profession at home, in Trenton, and in Washington.

In this outcome, I was able to integrate the following nurse educator competencies:

6. Utilize theories of change to advance the profession of nursing
8. Analyze trends in health care and nursing education and their impact on the profession of nursing, nursing education, and the delivery of patient care.

MSN Outcome 5 (Use the short or long title of the outcome)

(No Example)

MSN Outcome 6: (Use the short or long title of the outcome)

(No Example)

MSN Outcome 7: (Use the short or long title of the outcome)

(No Example)

MSN Outcome 8: (Use the short or long title of the outcome)**Example**

I have always found technology fascinating, and the more I learn and am exposed to technology, the more potential I can envision for future generations of healthcare providers. I have explored the electronic health record and have investigated the impact of e-mail on patient communication and privacy. In NUR-730: Nursing Education Seminar and Onground Practicum, I worked closely with simulation, learned how to run and debrief multidisciplinary simulation exercises, and to write the programs to run the technology. This was very exciting to me, as I believe that simulation will play a huge role in all aspects of medical education going forward. Because of this interaction, I will be on the forefront of this cutting edge technology, and I will have a direct impact on interdisciplinary education.

I also looked at blogs and their potential use as a communication tool for our Net generation of patients. In “The Bookbag of the Net Generation,” I explored this upcoming technology and suggested valid ways of assimilating it into our current patient teaching modalities.

In this outcome, I was able to integrate the following nurse educator competency:

8. Analyze trends in health care and nursing education and their impact on the profession of nursing, nursing education, and the delivery of patient care.

MSN Outcome 9: (Use the short or long title for the outcome)**Example**

The ninth and final MSN Program Outcome requires the graduate to “demonstrate a commitment to advanced study and lifelong learning” (Thomas Edison State School of Nursing, 2007). My commitment to life-long learning is demonstrated in the contents of my

Curriculum Vitae (Appendix), the various topics researched for my assignments, and my journals as presented in my portfolio. My journal entries in the portfolio for the NUR-730: Nursing Education Seminar and Onground Practicum are evidence of my commitment to life-long learning. As part of the criteria for the journals, I analyzed my preceptor's incorporation of theory into the teaching strategies used in the clinical setting. I then evaluated the effectiveness of these teaching strategies in guiding students toward successful completion of their course objectives.

Journals increase self-awareness and provide evidence of learning over time (Billings & Halstead, 2009). This is apparent in my first journal, *Transition from Clinical to Academia*, where I analyze how my preceptor transitioned into the role of nurse educator from her previous role as an intensive care unit staff nurse. In Journal 12, *Humor and Simulation in Skills Lab*, I analyzed how humor can make learning fun, help focus attention, and relieve stress and anxiety while students are learning new skills (Moscaritolo, 2009).

Continuing my education has not only led to a broadening of my knowledge base, it has also helped me to grow as a human being. Performing research for my courses at TESC has given me the opportunity to understand how the nursing profession is not only about each individual nurse, it is also about how nurses together can advocate for all human beings. Nurses serve those whose voices are not heard and are change agents for the underprivileged. I have learned the importance of advancing the nursing profession through knowledge and technology in order to provide the most effective, evidenced-based nursing interventions. I have learned that educators can help pave the way for our future nurses to look at the world not just through their own eyes, but to envision the world through the eyes of each and every patient they will have the privilege of caring for.

In this outcome, I was able to integrate the following nurse educator competency:

8. Analyze trends in health care and nursing education and their impact on the profession of nursing, nursing education, and the delivery of patient care.
9. Demonstrate a commitment to advanced study and lifelong learning.

Summary Statement

Example 1

As noted in my Philosophy of Education, educators should not only bring to the classroom their intellectual expertise but should also bring their values and belief systems as practitioners. This is the type of learning environment I have been a part of at TESC. The belief that learning is a lifelong process is instilled throughout the program. While guiding the graduate students towards successfully meeting each of the course objectives, the educators reinforced the importance of one's own accountability for their learning.

My mentors at TESC have guided me each step along the way in my journey towards achieving the MSN. They were there to hold my hand and pull me along when I suffered a devastating personal loss and was not sure if I was going to continue on with my educational journey. It was the holistic, caring environment at TESC that provided me with the support I needed at that time.

These are the values that I envision in myself as I begin my next role as Critical Care Nurse Educator. My mission will be to impart in my students the understanding that there is no greater honor than to care for someone in their time of need. I always considered myself a holistic nurse in my clinical practice; now I feel such a sense of accomplishment by also becoming a holistic nurse educator.

Summary Statement

Example 2

The nursing profession is always adapting to the changing needs of society, healthcare, and technological advancements. It is a very exciting profession with many avenues available for exploration. Nurses have gained a lot of recognition for their achievements in research, evidence-based practice, and advanced degrees. As a growing profession, it requires the accommodation of additional nurse educators. Nursing education is a gratifying profession that provides the nurse with the opportunity to exchange their knowledge and experiences with nurses and aspiring nurses. As an educator, I will provide colleagues and students with experiences that build their confidence, encourage their enthusiasm for the nursing profession, and provide them with a solid foundation to support their continued education.

As I prepared this document and finalized my portfolio, I reflected on my academic and professional achievements. The MSN program has enhanced my knowledge through research, provided me with a complex understanding of nursing theories and teaching styles, and has enabled me with the tools to confidently lead others through their academic journey. The MSN program has made it possible for me to develop from a Novice nurse to the level of Proficient (Benner, 1984).

I plan to begin teaching a pediatric clinical rotation this summer with Seton Hall University, where I had completed my on-ground practicum experience. Through the on-ground practicum experience, I was able to network with various faculty members, who expressed an interest in introducing me to additional BSN academic institutions as a clinical instructor. I will maintain my full-time position as a pediatric nurse to continue to develop my

critical thinking skills in the ICU environment.

To continue my commitment to lifelong learning, I am eager to begin a Rosetta Stone course to enhance my communication skills with the Spanish speaking community. Improving my ability to communicate will allow me to provide superior patient care. After gaining experience as an educator, I also aspire to return to Thomas Edison State College to complete a Graduate Certificate in Online Learning and Teaching. I am very enthusiastic about distance learning and the opportunities that it provides for students. The integration of technology and nursing education is of tremendous interest to me. This certificate program will enable me to provide students with a quality education through the flexibility, convenience, and affordability of an online degree program.

My academic journey as a student through the Master of Science in Nursing program at Thomas Edison State College mirrors my journey as a runner in the New York City Marathon. There was a lot of preparation involved, a significant amount of time dedicated to the goal, many uphill climbs, a support system from family and friends, and when you reach the finish line you get the same rush of adrenaline.

References (*new page*)

Example

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Appendix *(new page)*

(If a document is in the Appendix, the document must be cited in the body of the paper. For example, when you include your resume or curriculum vita in the Appendix you must cite the document in the body of the paper.)