Career Essay

Since I can remember, I have always wanted to be in the medical field. When I was younger, I dreamed of becoming just like my pediatrician and helping children get better when they were sick. As I got older my ambitions got bigger, and I aspired to go to medical school and become a surgeon. I believed that this was right for me up until my senior year in high school, when I came to the realization that I did not want to spend another decade in school. As I sat down and really thought about what I wanted to do long term with my career, I realized that all I want to do is help children get better like I did in elementary school. By taking the nursing route, I am able to accomplish my goal of helping children by specializing in pediatrics, and establishing my own practice as a nurse practitioner.

The role of a nurse practitioner can be defined as a registered nurse who has acquired higher education in a specific area, such as pediatrics or family practice. A nurse practitioner’s duties can differ depending on the population of the setting they are in. In order to be able to specialize in a certain field of medicine, a nurse practitioner must obtain a MSN, master of science in nursing, degree. Often times nurses tend to receive a higher pay and promotions for just having earned this degree (Nurse).

Generally, the role of a nurse practitioner is to act as a second physician, where they were able to do almost the same tasks as physicians excluding some procedures and prescribing
medications. However, roles are changing as more and more practitioners are specializing and continuing their education. So, this job would be for those who are not opposed to always learning something new, or even continuing their education, to provide the most up-to-date care for their patients. The Nurse Journal’s website states that the line of work for a nurse practitioner requires a person who is “…able to solve complex problems, and offer a compassionate attitude to patients.” (Nurse). I believe that this is the line of work for me because I enjoy helping others and working to find solutions for people’s problems. I firmly believe that a person’s health directly correlates to their happiness. Nurses have a huge impact on the quality of a patient’s care and treatment; and, nurses are the most prevalent in a patient’s care plan and see the patient the most. This is perfect for me because I want to help patients, while being heavily involved in their lives to provide the best holistic care, care that focuses on healing the whole person (Holistic).

Anyone who wants to get into this practice has to first complete a nursing program. For students attending Georgia State, the university does have the School of Nursing that provides the nursing major along with a nursing program. I am eventually going to work my way up to the Doctor of Nursing Practice that they offer. The program “prepares nurses to advance nursing practice, participate in organizational and systems leadership, and translate evidence into practice.” (Doctor). I hope to obtain the highest level of education to be successful in my field of work.

Typically, the most common setting that nurse practitioners work in would be a hospital setting or in an outpatient setting, the top paying industry however is personal care services. The pay averages at about sixty seven dollars an hour and 134,000 dollars annually. Georgia is among the states with the highest number of employed nurse practitioners, and the Atlanta and Sandy
Springs area have the highest employment level in the state, averaging about 2,900 in 2017 with an average annual pay of 106,430 dollars (Nurse).

I am extremely confident that this career choice is right for me because it is what I saw myself doing as a child in elementary school. The idea of helping my community and making it healthier and stronger is empowering, and I believe that just helping a person in need is powerful. Positively impacting someone’s life is motivating and makes me feel like I am fulfilling my God given purpose. Through nursing, a person is able to touch many lives while improving them.
Works Cited

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