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Nursing is a noble career with numerous opportunities for self development and life-fulfillment. I first developed interest in the profession when I was in grade three after reading an inspirational story of a nurse anesthetist named Ann. According to the story, Mrs. Ann saved the life of a patient at a point when all other medical practitioners working in the facility had been completely overcome with the patient's critical condition and had run out of ideas on an what to do. Following the story, I began viewing nursing as the most interesting career I would ever like to pursue. Since then I have been focused on one ultimate career goal: to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

My career goals are; to complete a bachelor degree in nursing in order to qualify to become a registered nurse, to do National Council for Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) so as to obtain license for practicing nursing, and to complete a Master's of Science Degree in Nursing (MSN) program in order to become an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) with specialization in anesthesiology. I also intend to complete a PhD program in the same area. Other goals that will help me achieve these goals are; volunteering every year in any health facility or any other relevant organization in order to gather more skills and experience, obtaining grade A in all my exams, and participating in at least one research every year. Obtaining a bachelor degree at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) will be an important milestone in my efforts to achieve my career goals. With a bachelor degree in nursing, I will be eligible for NCLEX- RN. Passing NCLEX- RN will enable me acquire license for practicing nursing. This will provide me with the opportunity to gain more practical skills and experience in nursing.

It will also provide me with opportunity for self-development. NCLEX- RN is also a prerequisite for registering for MSN program hence passing it will offer me a chance to pursue MSN and become APN. In addition to acquiring an academic credential, taking a degree program at VCU will prepare me for the career in many ways. First, I will learn technical skills involved in various operations in the nursing profession. Secondly, the program will offer learning experiences with scenarios that require application of critical thinking skills to solve problems. This is very important especially considering that critical thinking skills are crucial in practical settings. I will also be able to develop other skills such as communication skills and ability to take part in team work.

So far, the experiences I have had in life have significantly nurtured me for a nursing career. As a matter of fact, I have an impression that nursing chose me and I was put here on earth to help people. I have accepted this call and taken it as a source of motivation in life. To begin with, I have many experiences in home health care delivery since I took care of my late grandmother. In addition, I am currently taking care of my ailing aunt at home. As part of the caring process for my aunt, I undertake tasks such as maintaining both body hygiene and hygiene of the surrounding, helping aunt take her medication as prescribed by the doctor, preparing her food and feeding her, and monitoring her condition and notifying the family doctor in case of unusual observations. I am always present whenever she is being examined or taken through most procedures. This responsibility has enabled me to be familiar with the process of caring for the sick and to learn ways of giving emotional support and advocate for the sick.

Secondly, I assist at a local non-profit making agency that helps people with physical and mental disabilities and substance abuse problems. These people are in great need of emotional and physical support. I visit the center where they are rehabilitated three times every week and carry out the following: counseling substance abuse victims, working with physiotherapist to assist those with problems in mobility, maintaining hygiene, dispensing medicine as instructed by the nurse in charge, distributing food, and helping health workers in carrying out other activities whenever requested. I have gained much experience since I began working at the center. For instance, I have learnt the effects of substance abuse and care given to victims. I also take part in various activities at my local church and this has increased my ability to work with people.

Owing to my interest in health care, I have completed all the requirements for obtaining phlebotomy certification. I am also first aid and CPR certified. I consider training in the two areas very crucial in pursuit of my career. For instance, training in phlebotomy has equipped me with skills for performing venopunctures and epidermal punctures on live patients. I can also perform CPR with rescue breaths and I am confident in using the skills since I have applied them practically on two occasions with successful outcome.

I also believe that I have an upper hand to excel in the degree program since my life experience has instilled and nurtured requisite dispositions in me. For instance, I love working with people since I find it a pleasure sharing experiences and helping others whenever I can. Consequently, I take part in community activities during my free times. Another important aspect of my character is that I am emotionally stable: I can remain calm even in times of

crisis. As a result, I always make objective decisions. I am also hard-working and focused. In this case, I always develop a strong urge to continue pursuing every goal I set till I achieve it. I am also endowed with high intellectual empathy. Consequently, I am able to understand different people by putting myself in their shoes.

With experience in home health care, community work, church activities, training in phlebotomy, training in first aid and CPR, and work experience at a local agency that cares for mentally and physically disabled people and people suffering from substance abuse, I am highly suitable to take up a bachelor degree program in nursing at VCU. I consider nursing a career for which I was born.