

CAREER LADDER CONVERSATIONS

<http://www2.kumc.edu/careerladder>

April 2005 e-Newsletter from the University of Kansas School of Nursing

Ladders are commonly seen this time of year as many people are washing windows or beginning a house painting project. The CAREER Ladder for NURSES is not visible to those passing by your house. However, if people could see what is on your mind they would be able to see that you are interested in pursuing a career ladder by continuing your formal education and earning your Master of Science in Nursing degree!!

Personal Profile:

- ⊕ A recent graduate from Adult/Gerontological Health Care who took electives in Educator courses and completed requirements for the Nurse Educator Certificate.
- ⊕ Present Position:
Clinical Instructor at a University School of Nursing
- ⊕ Year graduated:
May, 2003
- ⊕ Did you seek your degree full-time or part-time?
Part-time
- ⊕ Did you work full-time or part-time while getting your Master's degree?
I work full-time for 3 years and then part-time my last year.
- ⊕ How long did it take you to complete your degree? Four years but I took a leave of absence for one semester so the total time taking classes was three and one-half years.
- ⊕ Have the educator courses been helpful to you? I was teaching part-time while enrolled in the educator courses and could immediately use much of the information I was learning in my instructor role.
- ⊕ Why did you choose the CNS track? I felt the CNS track broadened me and provided the most diversity to prepare me for a job in clinical teaching or in clinical practice.
- ⊕ What advice would you give to a nurse interested in becoming a master's prepared CNS?

It's different from undergraduate education because there is a collegial relationship with your instructors. It takes support from your family because late nights of study may occur. Being a graduate student is stimulating because you are consistently exposed to new knowledge and ideas that you can apply in your job as you progress through the program.

It's Up to YOU to take that initial step and get your transcript evaluated by Debbie Stratton, one of our recruiter's at her address below. Debbie also can answer questions about applying for financial assistance. After you apply and are accepted into the graduate program and take that first course you will be hooked!!

For guidance about continuing your education, contact the program director at your school or a mentor at the University of Kansas School of Nursing:

For questions about how master's preparation can advance your career contact:

Anita Wingate, RN, PhD
(913) 588-1634
awingate@kumc.edu

For questions about admission to the KU Master of Science in Nursing program contact:

Deborah (Debbie) Stratton, MS
Graduate & RN Recruiter, Student Affairs
(913) 588-1623
dstratton@kumc.edu