

# CAREER LADDER CONVERSATIONS

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

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

## \*\*\*\*\* Thinking about a Bachelor's Degree??? \*\*\*\*\*

The winds of March are blowing and a change of the seasons is in the air. Are you ready for a new challenge, professionally? Do you know, in your heart, that you want to continue your education? It's a great time, after a confining winter, to re-direct your energy toward your personal and professional goals.

### PERSONAL PROFILE:

- ⊕ Name: Patricia Houlihan, RN, ADN
- ⊕ Current Position: RN (part-time) in a LDRP unit in Covington, Louisiana; Part-time RN to BSN student at the University of Kansas School of Nursing
- ⊕ Professional Education: ADN from San Jose City College, San Jose, California
- ⊕ Comments: 'I had always wanted to get my BSN but traditional classroom study was difficult for me because of my work schedule. I examined several on-line programs and the University of Kansas School of Nursing was willing to review my nursing courses and pre-reqs to help me determine what my needs were.'
- ⊕ Challenges & Rewards: 'With distance learning, I haven't had to re-arrange my whole life. I am able to work and study 'on my own time.' The coursework can be challenging to study independently but I truly have enjoyed the curriculum. Rather than relying on face-to-face contact and clues from the instructor, I have learned how to read the syllabus and focus on the class objectives. And I'm able to communicate with the instructors via e-mail. I'm actually inspired now to go on for my Master's degree.'

### NEWS IN NURSING:

Are you worried that you can't continue your education because of personal or professional responsibilities, scheduling conflicts, or location? Distance learning may be the answer for you. A distance learning program could provide you the flexibility that you need to continue your education. Read how one student was able to make it work for her:

<http://www.nurseweek.com/news/features/01-07/evolution.html>

### WEB WISDOM:

To determine if web-based learning is for you, check out the following website:

<http://classes.kumc.edu/general/wbmodule/>

### FAQ's:

Ask the Faculty? How does distance learning differ from learning in the classroom?

Find the Answer: Sharon Kumm, RN, MN, CCRN, Clinical Assistant Professor, responds:

'There are some major differences between distance and classroom learning.

First, the student has to be self-motivated to study and keep up with assignments. Many instructors help the student progress at a steady pace by having due dates for assignments.

The second major difference is that you probably will never meet the instructor in person and may have difficulty determining the areas to focus your learning. In a lecture class, you can tell what the instructor believes is important by the emphasis put on certain areas. This is lost with distance learning. Many instructors provide study questions to help you determine what is important. I really enjoy working with RN-BSN students because they know why they need the knowledge and have great discussions based upon their experiences.'

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 RN to BSN or RN to MS preparation can advance your career contact KUSON Faculty Member:

Jeanne Schott, RN,MS  
jschott@kumc.edu

For questions about admission to the KU RN to BSN or RN to MS Nursing program contact, Student Advisor:

Heather Richardson  
soninfo@kumc.edu  
913-588-1619 or toll-free 888-588-1619