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Critical Issues



Why Stop at One Degree?

You are on a roll; don't stop now! You have the process down and have polished your study skills; it is time to look even further toward your BSN degree. Achieving your BSN degree opens up a broad scope of advancement opportunities. Many careers such as management or teaching are only open to nurses with bachelor's degrees or other advanced education or specialization.

Achieving your BSN puts you on the fast track to Management. BSN programs have a strong focus on research and management, and obtaining your bachelor's degree opens up opportunities for you to take that next step in your career. If you find that the physical stress of being on the floor is too much for you, management might be an avenue worth exploring. Holding a position in management allows you to have a more administrative role. Several types of positions on the management level play different roles in the day-to-day function of a hospital, nursing home, or other medical facility.

Achieving your BSN is also the next step in moving into nursing education. The country is facing a nursing crisis not only for nurses, but nurse educators, quality nurses like you to lead the next generation of nurses into the work force. Once you achieve your BSN degree, you would then enter a program for nursing education. Job opportunities in this field are endless. There are waiting lists now for nursing programs due to the shortage of nurses entering the nursing education field.

A Bachelor's degree in Nursing is also a prerequisite for entering programs such as clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, and researcher. These careers allow you to focus on specific areas of nursing. They also increase your responsibility, respect, and earning potential.

You can earn your BSN by studying at home. Many colleges have online nursing programs that require absolutely no time on campus. Clinicals are completed with preceptors in your own community. These programs are flexible and convenient. Call our BSN information line at 1-866-225-4612. We will be happy to discuss your options with you.

Could You Use \$75?

If you have friends or colleagues that would be interested in Chancellor's Learning Systems, please call and tell us about them! You will receive a \$75.00 bonus for every referral that signs up for five or more study guides.

Don't Panic!

The passing score for every CLEP exam is 50 out of a possible 80. Many of our clients have a moment (or two) of panic when they see a score in the 50s or 60s. The scoring is nothing like that of a traditional class. So be happy – you passed!

Congratulations

CarePlan clients who have passed the CPNE

ALBANY
Connie Marsden
Krista Ritchey
"Ling" Zhang

AMARILLO
Frances Bowie

ATLANTA
Kim Dixon
Gary Hughes

COLUMBUS
Robin Bremer
Rachel Codiga
Marguerite Fusco
Mary K Hoffman
Susan Joy
Adeel Khan
Tammye Peters
Amy Phillips
Terese Proellocks
Linda Robinson
Tracie Scrogam
Dawn Selvage
Andrea Shotwell
Christina Wedding
Kim Young

DALLAS
Brian Jahrsdoerfer

GWINNETTE
Fran Agliana
Kingsley Ajoku
Faye Davis
Romy Falck
Keith McFadden
Sharon McFadden

LONG BEACH
Faith Borunda
Victoria Cerda
Laurie Julia Haas
Leona Breakall Willis

MADISON
Kelly Ancheta
Joe Beall
Carleen Chance
Patricia Gusta
Julie Guthrie
Bonnie Huth
Marie Labossiere
Rebecca Larsen
Christopher Lee
Pam Melaragno
Chris Peyton
Sophia Peyton-Savage
Ruth Rish
Cheryl Rose
Sharon Westendorf
Mark Wilkinson

Shannon Yale
James Young

PHOENIX
Karin Rutt

PLANO
Brenda Garlington
Shawn Manney
Johnnie Reasonover
Heather Schaefer
Kerri Schiwart
Taunya Smith
Barbara Wilson

RACINE
Lyudmila
Konstantinova

Melissa Lanier
Chuck Lee
Kelly Paulsen
Sean Righetti
Kathy Serene
Sarah Smith

SAN DIEGO
Michele Anderson
Cynthia Smith

SCHENECTADY
Pam Betz
Wendy Halloran

**SOUTHERN MEDICAL
REGIONAL CENTER**
Otis Drew
Mary Jac Greer
Janet Rogers
Pam Smith
Elaine Taube
Susan Winchester

SYRACUSE
Tamara Bame

Deb Diehl
Patricia Landis
Cynthia Manthey
Consulate Oburu
Patti Scott
Michelle Sera



Advice from Geraldine Sherwood: Get to Work!

Geraldine Sherwood passed her CPNE in Columbus, Ohio, in October. She attributes her success to Chancellor's CarePlan Lab, which she attended in August. She said she had friends who had taken the lab and told her that she "couldn't possibly pass the clinicals without it." She now believes they were right!

Gerry currently works at Cookeville Regional Medical Center at a cardiac step-down unit. She says her career has included a plethora of experiences including pediatric, labor and delivery, and emergency room. She doesn't believe that her current career will change much after she receives her degree, but is excited about the raise in pay.

She studied for five months for the CPNE. She works full-time, so she took days off for workshops and teleconferences. She still felt like this was not enough time to prepare. She thinks that she was "slow, compared to many," but she passed and that's all that matters.

The hardest part of the CPNE for her was taking blood pressure and listening to breath sounds with the hospital's stethoscopes. She also says that keeping her nerves under control during the timed portions was difficult. She almost ran out of time during her first two PCSs. She combated her stress by drinking a lot of water and keeping a granola bar in her pocket "to nibble on." She also recommends taking deep breaths. The easiest part for her was the critical elements. "They are steady and predictable; only subject to memory."

For preparation for the CPNE, she recommends making lists of what you don't know. She suggests doing hands-on practice over and over with each step remaining the same. "Have someone who has taken the test before watch you." She stresses to "know the critical elements and know your PCS papers."

She passed the NCLEX in March. She began the program in 1998 and now has finally realized her dream. Her advice, "To anyone putting off finishing...stop it! Get to work!"



CarePlan Lab Quotes

"I could not have gotten my RN without Chancellor's. The CarePlan lab was the main factor in my passing the CPNE. I couldn't have done it without attending. Your website is full of caring, dedicated people whose support I needed. Everyone on your staff has been wonderful and helpful. Thank you so much for everything."

"Everyone was so wonderful, helpful, and sincere. I know that I could not have passed without the help of the CarePlan. Your company has made finishing my RN very manageable. The study guides have everything you need to know. I have a husband, three children, work full time, and we farm. It really was not possible for me to finish my RN the conventional way, and this was much quicker and much less expensive. Please thank everyone at your company for helping me achieve my dream!"

"Chancellor's made such a difference. I have been a nursing assistant for 5 years and an LPN for 25 years, and now at 48, I am a GN!! You are never too old to dream big!! Once I pass my state boards, I may even decide to go on for my BSN...the sky's the limit, and we have a big universe!! CarePlan also was beneficial to my success. The RNs there were so knowledgeable and friendly."

How do you eat an elephant? Deb Diehl knows!

Debra Diehl is well known amongst her online classmates, although maybe not by that name. They know her as "Basketcase," a nickname she picked up while studying for her RN. Debra has completed her exams and passed the CPNE. Now she begins her studies for the NCLEX.

Debra first heard about Chancellor's Learning Systems from a friend at her workplace, York Hospital. She was skeptical because she had tried home studies before and was not successful. She called Chancellor's and seemed to click instantly with her Client Services Specialist. She signed up for eight study guides and the CarePlan Laboratory.

At the beginning, she studied two months for each exam. She laughs that American Literature took her three months and was her hardest exam. She says that literature is "just foreign" to her. Her daughter, who has a deep love for literature, gave her the best advice for getting through the reading for American Literature. She told Debra to "just read it to enjoy it, not to study it."

"Don't be overwhelmed. Just take one chapter at a time."

She was able to speed her studies on her last three exams though, only studying three weeks for each. She says she figured out a system for when to order her next guide. She knew exactly when to call so that she'd get her guide the day after she'd taken the exam, giving herself a day off to rest. Passing each exam motivated her to study for the next one.

She says her biggest support through the program was her husband of 28 years, Terry. He would clean the house while she spent her days off studying. She also credits the Chancellor's Web Help Board for giving her a great group of online classmates.

Her best advice for getting through the guides is to just take them one at a time. She says, "Don't be overwhelmed. Just take one chapter at a time." She says that if you want it bad enough, you can do it. She believes that no matter how old you are, if you have a passion for it, you can do it.

In March, she attended Chancellor's CarePlan Lab. She says that the lab helped her prepare for the worst part of the CPNE for her, "Somebody watching me the whole time...under a microscope!" She says that the best way to tackle the CPNE is to be prepared. She sectioned her CPNE manual (which she refers to as the "Carjack") into "smaller bites." She laughs and compares it to eating an elephant. She focused on units two and four. She stresses knowing the grid and mnemonic devices like the back of your hand. She also says to smile during the CPNE. "If you smile, the CEs know that you're prepared." The key for her was to stay focused. "You can't control your environment, the CEs, the patients, but if you're prepared, everything will fall into place."

Debra will shortly begin shadowing an RN at York Hospital for a twelve week period and plans on taking her NCLEX in three months.



If we all did the things
we are capable of doing,
we would literally astound ourselves.
— Thomas Edison

If I believe I cannot do something,
it makes me incapable of doing it.
But when I believe I can,
then I acquire the ability to do it,
even if I did not have the ability in the beginning.
— Mahatma Gandhi

