

Nursing program a success at Clackamas



Photo by Karin Redston

Nursing student Debbie Planert (right) consults with Willamette Falls hospital staff.

Karin Redston Co-Feature Editor

Of all of the programs offered at Clackamas, one of the more demanding is the nursing program.

"Most students here are above average students," said Cathy Lindholm, a first year student, about the nursing program acceptance requirements.

"In other places they only have to meet the minimum requirements, where here they have to meet the minimum requirements plus the point system."

The point system at the college includes three areas which total 12 points. Up to four points are based on a student's GPA. The higher the grades the more points a student receives. Up to another four points is based on a student's score on the nursing entrance test, and up to four more points depend

on how many college credits the student has earned. If a student isn't accepted into the nursing program the first year, of one point is awarded so they can try again the next year. Although the nursing program is only two years the prerequisites may take at two years to fulfill.

Three first-year students

cited reasons why they went into nursing.

"It's never boring, and it's never slow."

Cathy Lindholm
Nursing student

"I just like helping people," said Debbie Paxton. "I enjoy the information."

"It's never boring, and it's never slow," said Cathy Lindholm.

"I don't know what I like. I don't know what I want to do yet," said Terri Bishop about what field of nursing she would specialize in. Bishop went through the Medical Assistant Program but wanted to do more and be able to take care of patients, so she entered the nursing program.

"Nursing is something you can do anywhere in the world," said Lindholm.

All of the nurses agreed the college nursing program was outstanding. A combination of creative teaching techniques involving group presentations and interactive teaching to promote critical thinking and teamwork have helped the program achieve a high success rate on board exams.

"It's an outstanding program," said Departmental Chair Arlene Jurgens. According to Jurgens, the program recently went through the Northwest College accreditation process and also voluntarily went through the National League for Nursing Accreditation and the Oregon State Board of Nursing Accreditation. Unlike most schools Clackamas only accepts 32 students into their program each year.

"They [other schools] have a high drop out rate where we don't," said Laura Gillilan, another first-year student. "We get much more one on one than they do."

All of the students agreed there is no typical day at the hospital. They don't know one day to the next what their day will in-

clude. Since this is their second term, and depending on how many patients there are, the nursing students are assigned one patient and back up nurses on others.

The students all agreed the best part of the job was the people. The fact that they made a difference in a patient's stay at the hospital was the most important part of their job.

"I brought my first patient roses," said Gillilan. "she was blind. She was very old. She was 95 and had Alzheimer's, so I was trying to do something special for her." The nurses are not just there for the patients. They are there for the family as well.

The nursing students all commented that most of the nurses treat them like colleagues instead of students.

"I have never been treated as a student by a patient or a family member," said Gillilan.

The students had only good things to say about their instructors. They described all of the instructors as being supportive and knowledgeable.

"You couldn't have a more awesome director of the department than Arlene [Jurgens]," said Paxton.



Photo by Karin Redston

Dawn Jensen draws up medication for an injections while Nursing Instructor Nancy Wilson supervises.

EARN COLLEGE CREDITS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Oregon State System of Higher Education

- Courses by mail or e-mail
- Taught by university professors
- Accredited and transferable
- Enroll now - set your own pace



Office of Independent Study
1-800-547-8887 ext 4865
or (503) 725-4865

Website: extended.portals.org/istudy
e-mail: xisis@ses.pdx.edu



Preschool & School-Age Activity Leaders

Are you tired of working weekends, nights, and holidays?

Do you enjoy helping children learn and grow?

Are you talented with arts, crafts, music, sports, or story-telling?

If so, come talk to us at KinderCare! We have employment available throughout the Portland community.

- Relaxed dress code
- Flexible schedules
- Friendly & fun environment

Call Mauri, today, for more information: 635-8982



Dawn Jensen (left) and Judy Warner study a vitals monitor machine.

Photo by Karin Redston