

A paved path leads from the bottom left towards the upper right, disappearing into a bright, hazy light at the end of the path. The path is flanked by grass and trees, with long shadows cast across it. The overall scene is peaceful and suggests a journey or path forward.

Maximizing Your Own Career: Potential: Opportunities for Your Career Path

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***Author, Take Charge of Your Nursing
Career: Open the Door to Your Dreams***

Questions Abound: Your Readiness for Change

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

TIME TO MAKE A MODIFICATION?

TIME TO EXPAND?

TIME FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?

TIME TO MOVE ON?

The Evolution of Your Career



Traveling A Personal Journey: A Cyclical Approach



Career Management

- The strategic planning, decision making, and implementation of career activities/choices/modifications that lead to one's continued professional growth in order to meet/accomplish specific goals/changes in career trajectory

Know Yourself: A Self Assessment

The 5 W's and the H

Introspection: Developing Self Awareness



Who

- Who are you in your present nursing career position, singular and/or combination?
 - Clinician/Practitioner
 - Educator
 - Administrator
 - Student
- Do you want to change career trajectories; modify your career trajectory?

What

- What are your professional/personal goals?
 - Goals met
 - Goals currently meeting
 - Goals to still meet/accomplish
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- What are the pros and cons of your current position?
- What are your unique qualifications/characteristics?
 - What do I have to offer/build upon?

Where

- Where do you envision your career to be in relation to workplace; geographical location
- Where is your career currently situated, i.e. school, practice, academics, administration, research, eclectic/blended role, other
- Where do you want to be in your professional career in 1 year, 5 years, 10 years...
 - Where can you best meet professional/personal goals

Why

- Why is your professional development and management important to you?
- Why have you made the choices you have made?
- Why are the circumstances such that you are now/might be interested in a change/modification in career path/trajectory?

When

- When did you become a professional nurse?
- Do you have a time change you want to implement in your career?
- When, if applicable, did you determine that you wanted to change/modify career path/trajectory?
 - Was there a particular impetus for desire to make a change/modification?

How

- How do I know if a change in career path/trajectory is what is best for me at this point in my career; at this point in my personal life?
- How do I know what steps to take toward making a change in career path/trajectory?
- How do I know what is available for me in nursing, health care, other related areas?
- How do I begin...

Finding One's Own Path



Endless Possibilities

Clinician

Advanced Practice Nurse

Faculty/Academician

Researcher

Administrator

REGISTERED NURSE

Entrepreneur

Advanced Education

Policy Maker/Politician

Global Nurse

Volunteer/Mentor/Coach

Author

Take Your Time

YOUR CAREER IS A JOURNEY
NOT A SPRINT

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

ADVANCED EDUCATION

Step 1

- Determining What Degree to Pursue
 - Career Work Versus All Those Degree Letters
 - What do all those letters mean

Step 2

- Do Your Research
 - Seek Information
 - Ask Questions
 - Resources
 - Peers/Colleagues/Mentors/Faculty/Role Models
 - Professional Organizations
 - On-line
 - Journals

Step 3

- Explore Program Offerings
 - What is the curriculum? Does it meet your needs?
 - How does the program work in relation to time and place?
 - Are you required to complete the program in a particular timeframe?
 - Does the school/faculty have a good reputation?
 - Is the school well-known in your area of interest?
 - What type of financial aid packages does the program offer?

Step 4

- Narrow Down Your Options
 - Here's Where all the "Homework" Comes In
 - Which up to five programs fit your needs best?
 - What "prerequisite" work is needed for each of your preferred program choices?
 - Prerequisite exams?

Step 5

- Interviewing: A Two Way Process
 - Phone, Email, In Person
 - Are you willing to travel for interview (Cost?)
 - “Surprise” Visits
 - List of Questions
 - “Practice”

Step 6

- Completing the Application Process
 - On-line versus paper
 - Universal applications
 - Directions and Deadlines
 - Information to be forwarded on prerequisites
 - Letters of Recommendation

Give Yourself the Right Amount of Time

Step 7

- Making Your Decision
 - Of the programs you have been accepted to:
 - Which one meets your needs most completely?
 - Which one has most flexibility to accommodate your needs/interests?
 - Which one will provide the best financial package?
 - Which one has the best mentors in your area of interest?


Which program will best prepare you to continue on your career journey?

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest, shrouded in mist or fog. The path leads towards a bright light source in the distance, creating a sense of depth and mystery. The trees are silhouetted against the hazy background.

ADVANCED
CLINICAL PRACTICE

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND



ACADEMIA
ADVANCEMENT

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest. The path is covered in fallen leaves and leads towards a bright, hazy light source in the distance, possibly a clearing or a body of water. The trees on either side are silhouetted against the light, creating a sense of depth and mystery. The overall tone is warm and atmospheric.

RESEARCHER

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a misty forest. The path is covered in fallen leaves and leads towards a bright light in the distance, creating a sense of hope and opportunity. The trees are silhouetted against the mist, and the overall atmosphere is serene and mysterious.

ADMINISTRATOR

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

A misty, golden-hued forest path leading into the distance. The path is paved and curves gently to the right, disappearing into a dense forest. The trees are tall and thin, their leaves creating a canopy that filters the light. The overall atmosphere is serene and mysterious, with a strong sense of depth and perspective. The lighting is warm and soft, suggesting either early morning or late afternoon. The mist or fog is thick, obscuring the details of the forest floor and the distant trees.

ENTREPRENEUR

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

ADVOCATE/POLITICIAN/
POLICY MAKER

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a misty forest. The path leads towards a bright, glowing light source in the distance, creating a strong lens flare effect. The trees on either side are shrouded in fog, and the overall atmosphere is ethereal and hopeful.

GLOBAL NURSE

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

MENTOR/COACH/VOLUNTEER

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

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AUTHOR

General Factors to Consider

- Career goals/desires
- Educational circumstances
- Personal circumstances
- Geographical mobility
- Financial circumstances

Next Steps...

- How do I begin...Considerations for Everyone at Various Points on Journey
 - Utilize 5 W's and H as means to self assessment and career path development and evaluation
 - Develop a tentative career path/plan for next steps
 - Resumes versus CV
 - Same? Different? When?
 - Letters
 - Types/Focus

Next Steps...

- Interviewing
 - Traditional/Behavioral/Face-Face/Telephone/Universal/Faculty w/Presentation
- Make a Pro/Con List....Yes, even you...
 - **Where you are currently**
 - **Where you might want to be**
- Network
- Social Networking: Pros and Cons
- Talk to mentor/Seek out mentor/Become a mentor...
 - No matter how seasoned your are

Your Career Journey Continues...

- You are already on your way so have confidence and be proud
- Your career journey is yours to determine and navigate
 - Don't get off your path unless you choose to take a detour or two...
 - Take your time; nursing options will always be there, including the diverse and varied educational opportunities that continue to be developed

Next Steps...

- Be open to all possibilities
 - Don't be inhibited to be a risk taker or step "out of your box"
 - Expect the unexpected
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- EMBRACE YOUR CAREER JOURNEY

Pursue Your Dreams



Contact

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