

**NURS 6003: *Transition to Graduate Study for Nursing***

**Academic and Professional Success Plan Template**

**Prepared by:**

**<INSERT NAME>**

This document is to be used for ***NURS 6003 Transition to Graduate Study for Nursing*** to complete Assessments 1-6. Just as importantly the document serves to organize your thoughts about planning for your academic and professional success.

For specific instructions see the weekly assessment details in the course, or ask your instructor for further guidance.

**Week 1 | Part 1: My Academic and Professional Network**

I have identified and secured the participation of the following academic (at least two) and professional (at least two) individuals and/or teams to form the basis of my network. This network will help me to clarify my vision for success and will help guide me now and in the future.

*Directions: Complete the information below for each member of your network. For more than four entries repeat the items below with details of your additional network member(s) in the ‘ADDITIONAL NETWORK MEMBERS’ section.*

**NETWORK MEMBER 1**

**Name: Dr. Giovanna Morena**

**Title: Psychiatrist**

**Organization: Family Psychiatric Association**

**Academic or Professional:**

Professional

**Why I selected this individual and/or team and how they will support my success in the MSN program and as a practicing nurse:**

**Notes:**

Dr. Morena has been practicing psychiatry for over 21 years, Dr. Morena has been mentoring students for over 10 years and I believe she will be a great mentor and a resource person to me. I came to know Dr. Morena through a mutual friend who is also a postgraduate student at Walden University. I selected this professional because they have a record of selflessness when it comes to offering mentorship to students who are upcoming advanced practice registered nurses or APRNs. Dr. Morena has successfully mentored and nurtured many APRN students who are now practicing psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNPs) in different states. It is this proven record and history of nurturing upcoming scholar-practitioners that endeared me to Dr. Morena. I believe Dr. Morena will support my success in my MSN program by pointing out to me the important areas that an APRN needs to pay attention to in practice. I also know that I will get support in mastering the techniques of interviewing patients and clients, as well as performing a thorough physical examination. I also know that Dr. Morena will be a very important resource person to be in the sense that she will introduce me to her professional network of friends and colleagues who will also contribute to my success by answering my many questions (Wofford, 2018; Schmidt, n.d.).

**NETWORK MEMBER 2**

**Name: Titus Koimur**

**Title: Psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner**

**Organization: Psychogeriatric Services, LLC**

**Academic or Professional:**

Professional

**Why I selected this individual and/or team and how they will support my success in the MSN program and as a practicing nurse:**

**Notes:**

Titus has been practicing Psychiatry for over 2 years as a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner. In addition, he is an alumnus of Walden University and therefore will be a great resource and asset to me. I chose Titus specifically because of the fact that he is a past student at Walden University, a fact that makes him knowledgeable about what it takes to succeed at Walden University. Because he has been practicing for just two years, he is still fresh and can offer invaluable advice to me concerning course expectations and strategies for success. Most importantly, his recent study as a postgraduate specialist student nurse at Walden University makes him for me the best person to assist me with research matters. I understand that as a postgraduate MSN student, research is the lifeblood of the course. Titus will greatly support my success in the MSN program and as a practicing PMHNP. He will do this by giving me tips on how to effectively accomplish course objectives (since he has been there), by directing me on the best way to present my work for maximum credit, and by teaching me what it takes to succeed as a PMHNP in practice (ANCC, n.d.).

**NETWORK MEMBER 3**

**Name: Walden University Faculty; Psychiatric-mental health**

**Title: Walden University Psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program**

**Organization: Walden University**

**Academic or Professional:**

Academic

**Why I selected this individual and/or team and how they will support my success in the MSN program and as a practicing nurse:**

**Notes:**

Walden is about student success and lifelong learning. Walden provided a wealth of resources to make sure students succeed. I have chosen the team at the Walden University faculty of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program as partners in my success because it has a good reputation of assisting students achieve their dream of becoming APRNs and specialists. This choice was not difficult, given that many of the former students at Walden University who are now practicing PMHNPs (including Titus above) speak so highly of this faculty. The faculty team will support my success in the MSN program and also as a practicing PMHNP after graduation by giving me guidance and encouragement during the course but also by being supportive of me as a former student even after successful graduation (Walden University, 2020).

**NETWORK MEMBER 4**

**Name: Michael Parkes**

**Title: Academic Success Student Advisor**

**Organization: Warden University**

**Academic or Professional:**

Academic

**Why I selected this individual and/or team and how they will support my success in the MSN program and as a practicing nurse:**

**Notes:**

Mr. Parkes as the student advisor in academics will be a very important resource person to me as I look forward to succeeding in my MSN course at Walden University. He will help monitor the progress of my postgraduate degree course and help keep me on course. As an academic advisor he will also provide support, suggest resources, and counsel when needed. This is why I chose him to be in my success team. Learning for a postgraduate degree when one is employed and has family responsibilities is not one of the easiest things to do. Without a robust support system, therefore, one is bound to fail. Even if one’s family were to fully support them in this endeavor, they would still not make it without the support of the academic advisor. This is because it is very easy to be overwhelmed by the coursework after one has had a rough day at work. Mr. Parkes will therefore support my success in the MSN program by guiding me on the best way to achieve a student-work balance. He will also help me succeed as a practicing PMHNP by offering advice on certification, licensure, and professional development.

**ADDITIONAL NETWORK MEMBERS**

None.

**References**

ANCC [American Nurses Credentialing Centre] (n.d.). *Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Across the Lifespan) Certification (PMHNP-BC)*. <https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/psychiatric-mental-health-nurse-practitioner/>

Schmidt, K. (n.d.). *5 reasons nurses should engage in professional networking* [Blog post]. <https://blog.bluepipes.com/5-reasons-nurses-should-take-professional-networking-seriously/>

Walden University (2020b). *Vision, mission, and goals* [Archived Catalog]. <https://catalog.waldenu.edu/content.php?catoid=147&navoid=47257>

Wofford, P. (May 24, 2018). *10 networking tips for nurses who hate networking*. <https://nurse.org/articles/tips-for-nurse-networking>

**Week 2 | Part 2: Academic Resources and Strategies**

I have identified the following academic resources and/or strategies that can be applied to success in the nursing practice in general or my specialty in particular.

*Directions: In the space below Identify and describe* ***at least three academic resources*** *or strategies that can be applied to the MSN program, and* ***at least three******professional resources*** *that can be applied to success in the nursing practice in general or your specialty in particular. For each, explain how you intend to use these resources, and how they might benefit you academically and professionally.*

**Academic Resource/Strategy 1**

Social Media/ Linkedin: Linkedin is a great way to connect with professionals who are open to mentorship and consulting

**Academic Resource/Strategy 2**

Alumni: Introduce yourself and your specialty; Be proactive in sharing relevant articles or resources to the group

**Academic Resource/Strategy 3**

Discussion board/ Class discussions: Ask fellow students for connections

**Professional Resource/Strategy 1**

**Professional Resource/Strategy 2**

**Professional Resource/Strategy 3**

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/STRATEGIES**

**Week 3 | Part 3: Strategies to Promote Academic Integrity and Professional Ethics**

I have analyzed the relationship between academic integrity and writing, as well as the relationship between professional practices and scholarly ethics. I have also identified strategies I intend to pursue to maintain integrity and ethics of my academic work while a student of the MSN program, as well as my professional work as a nurse throughout my career. The results of these efforts are shared below.

*Directions: In the space below craft your analysis/writing sample, including Part 1 (The Connection Between Academic and Professional Integrity) and Part 2 (Strategies for Maintaining Integrity of Work).*

**Part 1: Writing Sample: The Connection Between Academic and Professional Integrity**

In the space below write a 2- 3-paragraph analysis that includes the following:

* Explanation for the relationship between academic integrity and writing
* Explanation for the relationship between professional practices and scholarly ethics
* Cite at least 2 resources that support your arguments, being sure to use proper APA formatting.
* Use Grammarly and SafeAssign to improve the product.
* Explain how Grammarly, Safe Assign, and paraphrasing contributes to academic integrity

**PART 2: Strategies for Maintaining Integrity of Work**

Expand on your thoughts from Part 1 by:

* Identifying and describing strategies you intend to pursue to maintain integrity and ethics of your 1) academic work while a student of the MSN program, and 2) professional work as a nurse throughout your career. Include a review of resources and approaches you propose to use as a student and a professional.

**Week 4 | Part 4: Research Analysis**

I have identified one topic of interest for further study. I have researched and identified one peer-reviewed research article focused on this topic and have analyzed this article. The results of these efforts are shared below.

*Directions: Complete Step 1 by using the table and subsequent space below identify and analyze the research article you have selected. Complete Step 2 by summarizing in 2-3 paragraphs the results of your analysis using the space identified.*

**Step 1: Research Analysis**

*Complete the table below*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic of Interest:** |  | | | |
| **Research Article:** *Include full citation in APA format, as well as link or search details (such as DOI)* |  | | | |
| **Professional Practice Use:**  *One or more professional practice uses of the theories/concepts presented in the article* |  | | | |
| **Research Analysis Matrix**  *Add more rows if necessary* | **Strengths of the Research** | **Limitations of the Research** | **Relevancy to Topic of Interest** | **Notes** |
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**Step 2: Summary of Analysis**

*Craft a summary (2-3 paragraph) below that includes the following:*

* + *Describe your approach to identifying and analyzing peer-reviewed research*
  + *Identify at least two strategies that you would use that you found to be effective in finding peer-reviewed research*
  + *Identify at least one resource you intend to use in the future to find peer-reviewed research*

**Week 5 | Part 5: Professional Development**

I have developed a curriculum vitae to capture my academic and professional accomplishments to date.

The results of my efforts are below.

*Directions: Complete Step a curriculum vitae (CV) in the space provided.*

**Curriculum Vitae (CV)**

*Use the space below to write your CV based on your current education and professional background. Alternatively, you may write this in a separate document and copy/paste the results below.*

*NOTE: If needed there are a variety of online resources available with tips and samples of graduate nurse CVs.*

**Week 6 | Part 6: Finalizing the Plan**

I have considered various options for my nursing specialty, including a close look at my selected (or currently preferred) specialty and second-preferred specialty. I have also developed a justification of my selected (or preferred) specialty. Lastly, I have examined one professional organization related to my selected or preferred specialty and considered how I can become a member of this organization.

The results of my efforts are below.

*Directions: Complete Step 1 by writing 2-3 paragraphs in the space below comparing the nursing specialty you have selected – or the one you prefer if your choice is still under consideration - to your second preference. Identify each specialty and describe the focus and the role that graduates are prepared for. Identify any other differentiators you feel are significant, especially those that helped or may help you reach a decision.*

*Complete Step 2 by writing a paragraph identifying and justifying your reasons for choosing your MSN specialization. Be sure to incorporate any feedback you received from colleagues in this week’s Discussion Forum.*

*Complete Step 3 by examining and identifying one professional organization related to your selected or preferred specialty. Explain how you can become a member of this organization.*

**Step 1: Comparison of Nursing Specialties**

*Use the space below to write 2-3 paragraphs comparing the nursing specialty you have selected – or the one you prefer if your choice is still under consideration - to your second preference. Identify each specialty and describe the focus and the role that graduates are prepared for. Identify any other differentiators you feel are significant, especially those that helped or may help you reach a decision.*

**Step 2: Justification of Nursing Specialty**

*Use the space below to write a paragraph identifying and justifying your reasons for choosing your MSN specialization. Be sure to incorporate any feedback you received from colleagues in this week’s Discussion Forum.*

**Step 3: Professional Organizations**

*Use the space below to identify and examine one professional organization related to your selected or preferred specialty. Explain how you can become a member of this organization.*

- END -