

*Journey through Nursing School: From First Semester to Graduation*

**An Honors Thesis (HONR 499)**

**By**

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## **Abstract**

Nursing school is a challenging experience for all those who decide to embark on the journey to becoming a Registered Nurse and to join the profession of nursing. The Guinness Book of Records gave the title of the most difficult major to nursing—and for good reason. Countless hours of studying out of out huge textbooks, hand cramps from hand-writing long care plans on patients, waking up early in the morning for 6:30 a.m. clinicals, and referring to your textbook by name, because you have become that acquainted with them, are just a few things to consider when discussing the difficulty of nursing school. This semester marked the first semester in which, instead of writing care plans, we are now required to write case studies. This allows us to take all that we have learned when caring for a patient during our clinicals and to critically think about why we are providing the care we are providing to the patient, the patient's specific needs, and how these things come together to give a cumulative perspective on what all must be considered when providing high quality care. I analyze these five case studies that I have completed this semester in my NUR 430 course and how they have helped me to look at my patient holistically.

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