**1**

**Reflection Journal 1**

Elise Stigum, RN

King University

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2

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Returning to school to pursue the RN-BSN degree is necessary because the fast

Advancements in medical information necessitates ongoing knowledge acquisition; the

Public expects excellent care from their healthcare professionals. Working at Vanderbilt

Medical Center in the operating room, the limitations the Licensed Practical Nurses

Experienced were evident. Licensed Practical Nurses were allowed to scrub in but not perform

the duties of a Circulating Nurse. While working at Vanderbilt, they stopped hiring Licensed

Practical Nurses and the expectation held that nurses were credentialed with a bachelor’s

degree. Returning to school is necessary for pursuing the next step towards obtaining a

research or teaching position. Research, teaching, and case management positions require

a bachelor’s degree and many require a master’s degree. Without continuing this educational

pathway, job advancement is not possible. Returning to school is challenging and fun. The

opportunity to sharpen thinking skills, develop critical thinking skills, and interact with other

scholars is a blessing and a gift.

There are so many benefits to obtaining a BSN degree. The BSN degree signifies academic

excellence and achievement. Nurses with a BSN degree have respect by other healthcare

professionals. Some nursing positions prefer a BSN qualified candidate over an associates

degree candidate. BSN prepared nurses have advanced writing and research skills.

Patient care and facility operations will benefit from more BSN prepared staff by increasing

the baseline knowledge of nurses. BSN nurses have developed skills for presenting

3

presentations, researching and honing writing skills to produce literature that withstands peer

reviewed critique, and BSN prepared nurses have a deeper understanding of health care

statistics and outcomes. “BSN prepared RN’s are significantly more prepared” than ADN

prepared RN’s on 12 out of 16 areas of patient safety and quality. Among surgical patients, there

is a 5% decrease in risk of patient death and failure to rescue associated with 10% increase in

the proportion of BSN prepared nurses. Oct. 13,2023”. (AACN 2023)

“An increase in BSN prepared nurses was associated with 24% greater odds of survival among

patients who experienced in hospital cardiac arrest. Hospitals staffed with 80% BSN

prepared compared to hospitals staffed with only 30% BSN prepared nurses had 24.6% lower

odds of inpatient mortality.” (https://absn.csp.edu).

The idea of BSN prepared nurses being better prepared than Licensed Practical Nurses or

Associates prepared nurses are evident in reading job postings. The realization that a nurse

who graduated in 1993 with an associate’s degree might be becoming outdated is at hand.

Obtaining further education will validate that I am worthy of a BSN degree and more;

furthering my education will demonstrate to my grandchildren that learning is a life-long

endeavor.

4

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