So, You’ve Heard a Rumor?

Rumor: Nursing students cannot work while in the nursing program.

Reality: Many nursing students work while enrolled in the nursing program and succeed in their NUR courses. In fact, students who work in hospitals and/or nursing homes often have an “edge” for employment once they graduate. It is important, however, to note that the literature suggests that nursing students limiting work to 20 hours/week are more likely to be successful in a nursing program. The nursing division has adopted this rule of thumb: Work as many hours as you can as long as you are being successful in your NUR courses.

Rumor: At least 50% of the students entering the nursing program do not graduate.

Reality: The most recent national completion rate for Associate Degree Nursing graduates of ACEN accredited programs is 73.6%. TTC’s average graduation rate for the last three graduating classes is 66.2%. Nursing faculty members work continually to improve the graduation rate by offering course specific sessions in the Nursing Resource Center, analyzing the results of course examinations, scheduling appointments with students who are having difficulty with courses and revising admission and course requirements. While academic performance is one reason that students do not graduate, there are other reasons, such as wrong career choice, personal or family crisis or illness, lack of family support, finances, relocation and pregnancy.

Rumor: You will fail NUR 102 or NUR 104.

Reality: The 2-year average success rate for NUR 102 is 88%. The 2-year average success rate for NUR 104 is 78%. For the most part students with a passion for nursing do well in NUR 102 and NUR 104. Both courses are knowledge-based and focus on basic skills. The biggest shock to students in these courses is the amount of time they have to spend to succeed in the nursing program.

Rumor: 75% of students fail NUR 158/159.

Reality: The 2-year average success rate for NUR 158 is 88%. The 2-year average success rate for NUR 159 is 76%. Expectations and workload for both of these courses are higher than those in NUR 102 and NUR 104 by virtue of the fact that students have to begin applying what they learned in NUR 102 and NUR 104 as well as in BIO 210 and BIO 211. Students who did well in NUR 102 and NUR 104 tend to do well in NUR 158 and NUR 159, whereas students who met minimal requirements in NUR 102 and/or NUR 104 tend to have more difficulty.

Rumor: Nursing faculty try to weed you out as quickly as possible.

Reality: Think about this: the nursing program is evaluated on student success. In other words, if students are successful, the nursing program and the college have everything to gain. So, needless to say, student success is a primary focus for nursing faculty. For example, the Nursing Resource Center provides services specifically for nursing students that enhance the total nursing student experience, promote positive academic outcomes, and cultivate professional growth and development. Every week, faculty members from every NUR course provide academic coaching and supplemental teaching for
interested nursing students. Additionally faculty members may refer students to the Learning Assistance or Career & Counseling Centers.

Rumor: The nursing program is disorganized. Four different people will give you 4 different answers.

Reality: The nursing division recognizes that there is a lot of important information for students to “digest.” To be sure that information is consistent, the nursing division publishes an informative web page. The web page gives accurate information along with contact information for the appropriate person. Students needing clarification of information can contact their nursing advisors or the dean of nursing at muriel.horton@tridenttech.edu.

Rumor: TTC’s nursing program is a great, but hard program.

Reality: The nursing program enjoys a good reputation in the local healthcare community. Employers surveyed consistently state that they are satisfied or very satisfied with graduates of TTC’s nursing program. The reason the program enjoys a good reputation in the local healthcare community is that it is a hard program. It is safe to say that the nursing program is one of the most strenuous programs at TTC. It has to be strenuous because within three weeks of entering the program nursing students are providing care to patients and making decisions that can mean the difference between life and death for patients. There is no room for error! So, you can be assured that, when you graduate, you have completed a tough nursing program and are ready to assume the responsibility for the lives of your patients, without the assistance of a faculty member!

Rumor: TTC’s nursing program prepares you for the NCLEX.

Reality: The 2-year average pass rate on the NCLEX-PN for first-time writers is 100%. The 2-year average pass rate on the NCLEX-RN for first-time writers is 97%.

Rumor: There is a lot of reading. It can be overwhelming at times.

Reality: A lot of reading is required in every NUR course. So, it goes without saying nursing students need excellent reading comprehension. Assistance is available to students who need to improve their reading comprehension through the Nursing Resource Center, Learning Center, and Career and Counseling Services.

Rumor: Kiss your spouse and kids goodbye during ADN classes that end in a “9.”

Reality: The nursing program requires a total of 292.5 hours of theory and 772.5 hours of clinical for completion. This means that most nursing students are involved in school related activities approximately 40 hours/week. For some nursing students this means that they have to plan/schedule quality time with their spouses, children, and/or friends. In other words, nursing students have to be conscientious about making time for their priorities, which include family and friends. This has to be done throughout the program, not just in classes that end in a “9.”

Rumor: No one gets a hospital job without a BSN; no one hires ADN graduates.
**Reality:** The downturn in the economy has affected all areas of employment, including nursing. Nevertheless, job placement rates for TTC’s ADN graduates have remained strong. The 2-year average job placement rate for TTC’s ADN graduates is 91.5.

In an effort to comply with the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine report (http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/The-future-of-nursing-leading-change-advancing-health.aspx) released on October 5, 2010, hospitals are giving priority to ADN graduates who make commitments to obtain BSNs.

**Rumor:** Some nursing faculty members do not demonstrate caring and respect toward students.

**Reality:** The nursing division believes that positive student-faculty relationships are critical to student success. And, based on the number of written commendations received by the dean about various faculty members, we believe that most nursing faculty do demonstrate caring and respect toward students. However, in the event that a nursing faculty member does not come across as caring and respectful toward students, students have a variety of ways to express concerns about that faculty member. These include the Student Evaluations of Course and Instructor (SECI)s, class meetings with the associate dean, and Class Representative meetings with the dean. Problems that come to the attention of the associate dean and/or dean receive due consideration.

**Rumor:** Test questions often have two correct answers and two incorrect answers; however, the one answer available for credit is subjective.

**Reality:** All test questions in the nursing division are written in the multiple choice format. This is by design because the questions on the NCLEX use this format. It is common for students to eliminate 2 of the distractors and then have to choose between the remaining 2 distractors. However, there is only one correct answer. Students are provided the opportunity to review tests with faculty. In the event that there is a testing error, students are given credit for the test items.

**Rumor:** If you miss a clinical, you’re dropped from program.

**Reality:** Nursing faculty have the utmost value for clinical experiences as these experiences offer opportunities for students to apply theoretical knowledge that is unique to the practice of nursing. Consequently, students are expected to attend 100% of the scheduled clinical days, skills labs and simulation labs. In the event of an unavoidable absence, faculty will provide an alternative experience as long as absences do not exceed a week’s worth of clinical time. If a student incurs absences that exceed a week’s worth of clinical time/course or does not complete an alternative experience, a grade of F will be recorded for the course.

**Rumor:** If you fail one course you must wait 6 months to be re-admitted.

**Reality:** Students who are unsuccessful in NUR 102 or NUR 104 have to re-apply to the nursing program for the next available space in order to be guaranteed a space for re-admission. This usually exceeds 6 months. Students who are unsuccessful in the remaining NUR courses must take an intermission of at least 7 weeks. Then, they can be re-admitted on a space available basis. Depending on the course and space availability it may take longer than 6 months to be re-admitted. The moral of this story: Ensure that you have positioned yourself to be successful in your courses the first time around.