



Nhi Nguyen, Class of 2013
RN, MSN, Rush University School of Nursing

My name is Nhi Nguyen! I'm from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. I graduated from Lawrence University in 2013, with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Biology. My 4 years at LU were not only filled with a strong background of liberal education, I was also able to engage myself in the diverse community and participate in numerous co-curricular activities. Here, I found my family away from home, Lawrence International, an organization devoted to support international students and promote cultural integration. I served on the LI Board, actively planning events such as formals, ethnic dinners, Spring Break trip as well as performing in the annual Cabaret to showcase my Vietnamese heritage. In addition, I mentored students from Japan through their transition and adaptation to American culture. Essentially, LU was my study abroad experience that couldn't have been more meaningful, whose lasting impact has shaped me as a person. Outside of the classroom, I sang in the Viking Chorale. I also learned to play and perform Gamelan which is an ensemble of musical instruments from Bali, Indonesia. My community work can be reflected through volunteer experiences with Habitat for Humanity. I also tutored a local middle-schooler in Math and French as a way to immerse myself into the Appleton residential community and build rapport with the local family. During my last year at LU, I served on the Senior Class Committee as the secretary with the goals to further leadership skills and make memorable differences for my graduating class. For me, taking ownership of my future at LU was not a quick process, yet a rewarding one. I had to identify my strengths and weaknesses, but more importantly, to completely step out of my comfort zone and take any opportunity as a learning experience. I am most thankful for supportive friends, the international student coordinators, organization leaders, and academic professors, all of whom offered guidance and help towards my success while at LU.

I'm currently working as a Registered Nurse at the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL. After completing pre-nursing courses and graduating from Lawrence, my goal was to pursue a nursing degree. I took a year off to volunteer at multiple hospitals in Louisville, KY, with the intention to expose myself to the medical field and its various settings, while searching for a suitable nursing program. I reached out to a LU alum for advice and decided to apply for the Generalist Entry Masters of Nursing program, which is designed for students with bachelor degrees in a different field who want to pursue nursing. The 2-year program is offered at Rush University, and I graduated in May of 2016 with a Master's of Science in Nursing. I passed the board exam and got my license soon after, then started working as an RN in October of 2016.

As a novice nurse, I enjoy the challenges that come with nursing the most. Each patient and family member that I've come in contact with and taken care of has entirely different background and story, hence making each experience unique. No two

relationships are the same! As a result, I learn to be patient, communicate effectively, and think fast as well as creatively to cater to the individuals. To a great extent, my years at Lawrence have prepared me for my career. I'm equipped with an engaged learning mindset, which is highly applicable for graduate school and helped me get through nursing school. Transferrable skills that I acquired from LU include, for example, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, etc. that still play an important role in my everyday life, especially at work. My training to adapt to changes is more relevant than ever because nursing is an ever changing field.