

Hi everyone!

My name is Christopher. I'm 34 and originally from Columbus, OH. I'm currently in the RN-BSN online program here at Chamberlain, and I'm really excited finally to be on this journey! Nursing has always been a dream of mine. I grew up watching my grandmother work as an STNA—she was incredibly kind and caring, and seeing the way she took care of people really inspired me to want to do the same. I've been in healthcare for about 10 years now, working as a Nationally Registered Certified Medical Assistant. Most of my experience has been in outpatient settings—family medicine, pulmonary & sleep, and for the past few years, addiction services. In 2021, I earned degrees in Psychology and Integrated Healthcare from Ohio University, and I also got my Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant license in Ohio. I recently finished my Masters Degree in Healthcare Administration from Franklin University in 2023. One thing that's really stood out to me working in addiction medicine is how important it is to understand anatomy and physiology. Knowing how substances affect the brain, and body helps me better support our patients and explain what's going on in a way they can understand. It's been a huge part of helping people through recovery and making sure they feel supported and informed.

Looking forward to getting to know you all and learning together!

Reply: Hi Tameka,

Thanks for sharing your journey! Your passion and dedication to the healthcare field overall really come through. And the way that your experiences as a regional practice administrator and EMT-B have shaped your perspective and fueled your desire to pursue nursing is really inspiring. I also want to say that I appreciated what you shared about your grandparents' encouragement and how that was what gave you the final push into nursing. Those personal moments are often the small thing we need to remind us why we're called to this path. I, too, can relate to the drive for nursing through personal experiences. In November 2020, my father passed away unexpectedly from an unintentional overdose. Despite being the youngest of three siblings, I was left to make all the decisions related to his healthcare, funeral arrangements, and eventually managing his estate. That period was emotionally and mentally exhausting and really rocked my academic equilibrium since I was still in my first year of college. Now, as I continue working toward becoming an RN, I face challenges like time constraints: balancing a full-time job, a part-time job, and coursework leaves me overwhelmed at times. I'm relying heavily on planners, calendars, and organization tools to manage everything. Financial stress is also a factor for me, as this isn't my first undergraduate degree, so financial aid options are more limited. I've been actively seeking out new resources and budgeting more closely to try to ease some of that burden.

Despite everything, I'm committed to this path, and like you said... It really is about bringing all our experiences full circle. Wishing you continued success in the program.