

Post an explanation of your choice of a nursing specialty within the program. Describe any difficulties you had (or are having) in making your choice, and the factors that drove/are driving your decision. Identify at least one professional organization affiliated with your chosen specialty and provide details on becoming a member.

The nursing specialty I am pursuing is Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. The reason I selected this path is my desire to continue working in the ICU, along with the possibility of working in a specialty clinic. The only difficulty I found was being torn between psych and acute care initially. There is a shortage of both specialties here in my community, and I was trying to see which one would allow me to reach the underserved population more upon graduation.

Prior to transferring to Walden, I had completed a practicum at an urgent care facility, and my decision was no easier after, since I was shocked at how many people came to the urgent care for psychiatric problems, as well as how many relied on the urgent care for their psychiatric medications. The number of veterans who came in for medication refills was alarming, since there was no way to properly review all medical records from facilities like the VA, I understood the reluctance of my preceptor when it came to psych medications, although we weighed the benefits versus consequences of them being without their medications. In seeing the poor state of the community's resources for psychiatric patients, and no sign of relief in sight, I decided to continue with my Acute care program where I felt I could help with the shortage we currently face in the ER and ICU of nurse practitioners (Pastores & Kvetan, 2015). I feel my impact will be better in filling this shortage since there are plenty of acute care facilities with limited staff (Pastores & Kvetan, 2015), and only one behavioral facility which is fully staffed, unfortunately is the only one.