

Rush University Medical Center

Rush University College of Nursing

“Shadow a Nurse” Information and Guidelines

At Rush University Medical Center, we are passionate about nursing. In order to promote and encourage others to pursue careers in nursing and help students develop a deeper understanding of the nursing profession, we have developed a “Shadow a Nurse” program. This program is where potential nursing candidates are given an opportunity to observe and experience nursing firsthand. It is our intention to provide the “shadowee” with a realistic view of the nursing profession to aid in a career decision and/or a program choice. We believe that there is no better way to determine if nursing at Rush is the career path for you.

Guidelines

1. Shadow a Nurse experiences are offered to college students or college graduates.
2. It is highly recommended that you attend a Rush University College of Nursing Information Session prior to the shadowing experience.
3. The typical Shadow a Nurse experience is:
 - A single, two-hour experience on one medical or surgical unit.
 - Shadowing of one designated direct care nurse.
 - Introduction to patients as a shadowee.
 - The shadowee enters no more than five patient rooms.
 - Shadowees will not be allowed in patient rooms:
 - During invasive procedures such as suctioning, blood drawing, line placement, etc.
 - If patients are on airborne, droplet or contact precautions.
4. Appropriate dress for the experience is clean, machine-washable, comfortable clothing. Choose conservative clothing: no jeans, no halter tops, no midriffs or underwear showing. Wear comfortable, soft soled shoes.
5. Upon arriving at Rush, shadowee will:
 - a. Arrive at agreed upon location at designated time
 - b. Receive and wear a visitor ID badge
 - c. Review and sign the Confidentiality Agreement (HIPAA requirement) form
 - d. Complete and sign the Infection Control Screen form. The shadowee takes the Infection Control form with him/her to the unit. If the shadowee feels/is ill on the day of the shadow experience, the shadow experience must be rescheduled.
 - e. Be escorted to the unit by hospital personnel
 - f. The nurse who agrees to be shadowed will review these guidelines with the shadowee prior to receiving the shadowee. The shadowee is introduced to patients by the nurse after the patient has given verbal permission to allow them in the room.
6. At the end of the shadow experience, shadowee will:
 - a. Return completed Infection Control Screening form and Evaluation form to nurse.
 - b. After the shadow experience, unit personnel will direct the shadowee to the easiest exit from Rush University Medical Center.

Shadow a Nurse experiences may be requested from:

Kristen Tobis

Project Coordinator, Nursing Affairs

Email: Kristen.L.Tobis@rush.edu

Phone: 312-942-9636