

My nursing journey didn't start normally. I received my biology degree from the University of North Carolina Charlotte. I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to do yet, but I knew I wanted to be in medicine. My grandpa was diagnosed with lung cancer, and my grandma, who needed a knee operation, was taking care of him full time at home. I made the decision to move to Lexington, SC where I helped take care of my grandparents while working full time for an ophthalmologist in downtown Columbia. This ultimately pushed me into my nursing journey.

I moved to the Lowcountry in July of 2015 where I immediately began my nursing studies at the Technical College of the Lowcountry. After graduating in 2017, I began my journey as a PCU nurse at Hilton Head Hospital. After about two years, I was promoted to the Cath Lab. This was slightly unusual, as the Cath Lab usually only accepted nurses with critical care experience. However, the Cath Lab staff knew me from the floor and gave me a chance, and I have been thriving there ever since. I finished my BSN in 2021 online at South University while working full time in the Cath Lab.

Although I love my job, I want to move from bedside nursing to a provider role which is why I began my Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at the University of South Carolina. I will graduate as an adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner. I hope to work as a cardiovascular nurse practitioner and promote health with residents of the Lowcountry. Although you can be a nurse practitioner with a master's degree, I decided to do the DNP route in line with current recommendations by the Institute of Medicine and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing who recommend nurses achieve higher levels of education and training.

Our area is extremely lacking in providers, especially providers that take the time to listen to patients and treat them holistically. I hope to provide evidence-based, compassionate care that ultimately leads to better patient outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration for a scholarship,
Angela Keziah BSN, RN