

Naveed Ali
Current Excelsior College Student
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Good morning, I am Naveed Ali and I would like to thank the Sunset Advisory Commission for allowing me the opportunity to speak today. I have been a paramedic in Bastrop County since 2009 and I have a lovely wife and three wonderful children.

After being a paramedic for several years, my wife and I decided that since I enjoyed medicine it would be a natural fit for me to become a nurse. I attempted nursing programs at Austin Community College and Temple Community College, both traditional programs. However, it soon became evident that the traditional route was not going to be possible. I would constantly choose between going to class or bringing in money to pay bills, attending a school event for the kids or going to class. After several semesters of failure, I had a fellow co-worker tell me about Excelsior. After doing extensive research, I enrolled at the College.

I did not know what to expect - I was nervous. It took me several months to prepare for my first exam due to family emergencies and work taking up most of my time. After passing the first exam I realized that this program was not going to be easy. The classes were going to force me to really know what I was doing. Even though all the tests were hard and required a significant amount of study time, the flexibility that Excelsior offered allowed me to move forward in my education.

I enjoyed that the classes were built upon each other and that I could not just complete a test and forget the information. I became an independent learner and developed a good understanding of nursing practice across the spectrum. Working 911 service, my dealing with medicine was in an acute emergency setting. Nursing classes at Excelsior have shown me the complete picture of health care and how to be a successful nurse in any and every aspect of the health care cycle.

As I approach the end of my degree I am thankful for Excelsior. I love my job as a paramedic but I do not make enough money to provide a comfortable life for my family. By having my nursing license I will be able to spend more quality time with my family. There is excitement in our household. The kids and the wife are happy that I will spend more time at home and I am happy because I can finally balance my personal and professional life. This excitement is only possible due to Excelsior College and its online nursing program.