What a difference one summer can make!

In the case of four Wagner nursing students, it happened last summer, when they all were able to intern at Johns Hopkins University Hospital through a partnership between Wagner College and the prestigious Baltimore healthcare institution.

Established by Donald ’49 H’88 and Evelyn Lindfors ’49 H’92 Spiro in 2006, the program allows Wagner nursing students to gain clinical experience. Over the past five years, 18 nursing students have benefited from these internships.

For Nicole Dmitra, for example, the experience took her into an area she had never considered before: oncology. All of the students worked full-time in different areas of the hospital; Nicole Dmitra was placed on the critical-care bone marrow transplant floor. “It was there on that floor I may have discovered my true nursing passion,” she says. “I had the pleasure of meeting some of the most determined, positive, and amazing patients. Being a part of their care was an extremely humbling experience.”

Whether the students worked with organ transplant patients, in pediatric surgery, or with other critical medical needs, they all reported a tremendous learning opportunity. “After this experience, I know without a doubt that nursing is my calling,” says Emily Werkheiser ’11.

Applicant Requirements

Students must meet the following criteria:

- Junior level Nursing Student.
- Good standing in all Nursing courses (theory and clinical).
- A minimum GPA of 3.2.

Application process:

- Look for invite in your email
- Submit letter of intent with resume.
- Complete application
- Recommendation from two clinical faculty members.

Applications are to be submitted to Dr. Gasalberti by December 1st.

Contact Information:

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This opportunity is made available to the Wagner College Nursing Students through the generosity of its’ supporters, Don and Evelyn Spiro.
An Opportunity to Develop Nursing Skills

Clinical nurse internship/externship programs provide a tremendous opportunity for upper-level nursing students to successfully transfer from educational to clinical settings. Under the supervision of experienced preceptors, participants are guided towards mastery of nursing skills and improved patient service. Internships also provide the opportunity to explore various nursing fields to identify best career fits.

A clinical internship can be one of the most rewarding experiences a student nurse can have. With planning and preparation, you can identify the best opportunity for you, one that will prepare you for a successful career in nursing. The following is a guide for identifying and creating a successful clinical experience.

What is the difference between an externship and an internship?

Generally, externships are completed the summer between a nursing student’s junior and senior year. They are usually full-time, paid and are six to eight weeks in length. Internships are usually available during the academic year, are part-time and are also paid. Some hospitals call these positions nurse technicians.

What can you expect in a student clinical nurse program?

A clinical internship should be treated like an actual job with the same expectations and requirements. Although you will have the opportunity to gain valuable nursing experience, the organization providing the internship has other expectations—often to learn about you and your work style, and to train a prospective employee who will provide excellent patient care. Of course, each internship program will have unique requirements, but you can generally expect the following:

- Development of mutually agreed-upon goals and performance standards.
- Development of specific clinical skills through observation of experts and supervised, hands-on experience.
- An orientation period conducted with other interns.
- An opportunity to earn money.
- An opportunity to regularly shadow an experienced nurse.
- A chance to observe clinical, surgical or other specialized procedures.
- The experience of following a patient through his/her medical experience.
- An opportunity to function independently following appropriate training and development.
- Receipt of continuous feedback from a preceptor.
- Appropriate resources to function effectively as a care provider.
- Opportunity to work with health professionals from other disciplines (physicians, occupational therapists, nutritionists, etc).
- Exposure to state-of-the-art technologies and procedures.

**Housing Accommodations are provided for Wagner’s Nursing students through the generosity of its’ supporters, Don and Evelyn Spiro.