



Alumni Spotlight

James “Boone” Simmons

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
May '17



Why did you choose to study Nursing?

I have always enjoyed helping other people. My Mom has been a nurse for 25 years. Growing up I have seen how rewarding she finds the career and throughout my clinicals and work experience I have found the same fulfillment in caring for patients.

What activities, organizations were you a part of at WKU?

I served as President of our Kentucky Association of Nursing Students (KANS) chapter at WKU, participating and organizing several volunteer activities and events throughout the community. I also participated in the VESNIP (Vanderbilt Experience Student Nurse Internship Program) offered through a collaboration of the WKU School of Nursing and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. At the end of this internship I was awarded with Vanderbilt's CREDO award which is awarded to a student nurse that exemplified Vanderbilt's CREDO throughout the internship.

What are you doing now?

I have accepted a position at Vanderbilt in their Cardiovascular ICU! I plan to work extremely hard to learn as much as I can throughout the residency program. I also am going to gain several certifications to run certain machines that are used in the CVICU as well as obtain my Critical Care Registered Nurse certification along with any other competencies that will make me a better nurse!

“I feel confident as a new nurse taking on any challenge that I have thrown at me because of all the hard work the WKU school of nursing staff has put into helping me grow and learn as a student nurse.”

Any advice to current WKU students and/or Nursing majors?

• Take advantage of the extra opportunities to gain clinical experience, inside the hospital is where I was able to link everything I was learning in the classroom to real life • Don't be shy, jump in on any chance to perform any skills that you have learned in school • Take some time off to do things that you enjoy • Every clinical that you attend is a job interview, so make a good reputation for yourself • When you find somewhere that you think you would like to work make connections, go up and introduce yourself to the staff leaders show your interest!