

EXTRA CREDIT

A SUMMER & WINTER SESSIONS PODCAST

Episode 12 Transcript

00:00:02 Introduction

Welcome to Extra Credit, hosted by the Rutgers University Office of Summer and Winter Sessions. Listen to hear from students, as they share their experiences at Rutgers and some tips on how to navigate a condensed semester. Also gain the perspective of professors and learn more about the courses they teach.

00:00:18 Kylie

Thank you for you know, taking the time, speaking to me just about you and your journey to Rutgers. And obviously your journey while being here.

00:00:27 Kylie

Uh, if you could please introduce yourself to the audience. Just like your name, your major, stuff like that.

00:00:34 Amanda Kim

Sure, just quickly my name is Amanda Kim and I am currently a Level 3 student in the second degree nursing program in New Brunswick.

00:00:44 Kylie

Awesome wow, so, what is a Level 3 student? Is that like a nursing school term?

00:00:52 Amanda Kim

Well, it's specific for - I believe it's specific for the second degree nursing program because it's only 14 months, so they pretty much say, it's over 4 semesters.

00:01:03 Amanda Kim

So, basically your first semester is level one and then second semester is level 2, so on and so forth.

00:01:10 Kylie

I didn't even know that was a thing, wow.

00:01:12 Kylie

So you're like almost done.

00:01:14 Amanda Kim

Almost done in August, hopefully.

00:01:17 Kylie

Whoa, that's awesome.

00:01:21 Kylie

Wow, good for you, good for you. Uhm, do you work while doing that?

00:01:26 Amanda Kim

It is a very intensive program, but I do just work part time, just remotely from home. I work for a small design-build construction company. I just do a little bit of administrative work and that's about it.

00:01:45 Kylie

Good for you, yeah, so can you tell me a little bit about your summer session experience?

00:01:49 Amanda Kim

Sure, so because of the program, we do have to do summer sessions that will be in my level 1, which is my first semester and level 4, which is my last semester. It will be in the summer because of how intensive it is.

00:02:04 Amanda Kim

I would say the summer session is very rigorous, it is, you know, you have to learn maybe a semester's worth of information like a regular spring or fall semester information in a short amount of time. I don't remember exactly how many weeks it is, but it is very fast paced and you're constantly going.

00:02:27 Amanda Kim

Although- but you're finished sooner, so that's a good thing about it. I've taken some - I've taken summer classes before and I think it's - it's a good way to, uhm - It wasn't part of this program, it was for a different one - but you know, it just helps if you want to get in additional classes and/or some extra credits. And it's definitely helpful to do that over the summer.

00:02:50 Kylie

We have a lot of resources out there too, like just the summer session. We're here to help.

00:02:54 Amanda Kim

Yeah, I mean I - obviously I was preparing for this before the pandemic and then the pandemic hit and I did get- I was a bit nervous and I wasn't sure if I'd be, you know, prepared to, you know, tackle a pandemic once I graduate, but I know now after attending clinicals and interacting with patients. I realize this is extremely important.

00:03:18 Amanda Kim

And you know we all knew like during the pandemic, I think there were shortages of nurses and there was a real need for them and I think yeah, that's even motivated me more to really just pursue and continue this degree even though there's a pandemic going on.

00:03:35 Kylie

Yeah wow, so you, you knew that you wanted to do the nursing become a nurse before the pandemic. Was there a reason behind that?

00:03:42 Kylie

Like did you just find a calling to healthcare?

00:03:45 Amanda Kim

Yeah, before this, I used to work in a research lab and so my boss was a, a physician scientist, so he did research and also treated patients, and I thought that was always amazing. Just even having time to do both.

00:04:02 Amanda Kim

And I loved research. It's what I thought I wanted to do, but I realized that I actually wanted to do something more hands on and have more of a direct impact, like I loved my work, but I really wanted to just help patients directly. And that's why I chose to do nursing.

00:04:23 Kylie

Well, you will get your wish, I can assure you. Yeah, my sister is a nurse and she's been a nurse for a while, and then the pandemic hit and so she's, you know, like this has been going, on-going, but yeah she's definitely hands-on so you're going to get your wish for that that.

00:04:42 Kylie

That's amazing, though. Good for you. So, what was your - This is your second degree - So what was your first degree in?

00:04:48 Amanda Kim

So, my first degree was in biology, uhm, I also got my Master's in biology and hence why, you know, I told you or mentioned before that I wanted to do research and maybe pursue a PhD. That's what I thought I wanted to do, but um, working, you know, with my, at the Research Institute and it was- it was at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

00:05:14 Amanda Kim

So it was at a hospital, just, I was part of the academic part of the research part of it, and I was able to shadow, you know, a DNP there. So yeah, so that's pretty much, it, yeah.

00:05:30 Kylie

Yeah, that's awesome. Really good for you. Good for you. Do you feel like you have - Are you a little, like, a little bit ahead of the game since you have such a heavy science, specifically biology, background, do

you feel like you're more prepared? I mean, obviously with the field, but just the schooling alone. 'cause I remember some of my sister's textbooks - oh my goodness, I got lost.

00:05:52 Kylie

I'm a marketing background. I was like this is not my cup of tea, like I'm out.

00:05:58 Amanda Kim

I mean, it does help definitely, but I will tell you it didn't help as much as I thought it would. Uhm, it's just the way nurses think, or nurses have to think is completely different from what you study in biology. I guess biology is very specific. You know, down to the cellular level, whereas nursing is treating the person as a whole and it's – it's a completely different way of thinking, right?

00:06:22 Kylie

Right.

00:06:22 Amanda Kim

Cause it's not just treating an illness, it's treating the whole person. So, I had to definitely get used to that.

00:06:27 Kylie

Well, that's awesome. That's so interesting. I would - like I would have never - like even - I know, like, nursing, what it is.

00:06:33 Kylie

Uhm, but to me, like to me it's still very like biology, very science centered. Where I mean, I like totally forget that there's also a person that comes along with that, but that's also business background like that's what we're looking at, so totally different.

00:06:52 Kylie

So- so that's great. So, do you think COVID has given you an incentive to finish your degree? Or do you think that, I mean, there's obviously been some roadblocks with like schooling and clinicals and stuff like that.

00:07:06 Amanda Kim

Yeah, there's definitely been some roadblocks, and COVID did definitely make it difficult, but I would still say it's been - like COVID was definitely an incentive to finish my degree. I actually think it was, uhm, I think it was the right time to start and finish because it'll be just about you know 14 months, uhm.

00:07:28 Amanda Kim

And especially with the pandemic, like I mentioned before, it's even more evident that we need more nurses and more health care professionals. So. I think it's yeah, COVID wasn't- It was a roadblock, but still an incentive for me to continue this or pursue this degree.

00:07:45 Kylie

Awesome, that's awesome. So, if you could tell me about your journey to Rutgers a little bit? Just why, you know, you decided to attend Rutgers to attend this program. Uhm, you know, how did you come about this decision?

00:08:00 Amanda Kim

So - so why? It's pretty much why Rutgers right? I mean, uhm, I decided to do this program because, uhm, it was- so my parents live in New Jersey. I'm originally from New York and I worked in New York, went to school in New York.

00:08:19 Amanda Kim

And uhm, you know, I just know that you need a lot of support for this program, so I decided to choose Rutgers. And you know, it's uh- I was looking for second degree programs. There aren't that many, and, uh, Rutgers, uhm, you know, it was just being close to home and whatnot, so that definitely helped. And um, yeah.

00:08:42 Kylie

Yeah, definitely so incredible to have a support system, like a solid foundation. Just 'cause, you know you have all the things, all the responsibilities of life. But now you also have like 8 chapters to get through in three days. So, it's definitely nice to like have that support system, to have that help. It's definitely needed.

00:09:03 Kylie

Uhm, so what do you like about the program? What do you like about attending Rutgers? And you know, going through this journey?

00:09:10 Amanda Kim

I really appreciate that. It's uh – it's a really big school, like a big state school. I went to a small private university. And so, like I always wanted to see what like, you know, the whole big thing was about going to a big school. And especially in New Jersey, everywhere I go, you can always meet someone that went to Rutgers and uhm, there's a lot of school pride I feel.

00:09:34 Amanda Kim

And even our scrubs. when we go to clinical there, says Rutgers University in big red letters, and patients always notice them, and it's always a conversation starter. So, it's- it feels nice to be part of something big, I guess.

00:09:50 Amanda Kim

And yeah, I guess if school wasn't remote, I bet I would also be able to enjoy all the bigger events I hear Rutgers holds, that Rutgers holds uhm, every year or throughout the year. I'm- I'm a little sad that I get to miss out on that, but.

00:10:08 Kylie

Yeah, no, definitely. But you know what? There's great alumni opportunities to, like you were saying, like just being a part of this like huge, huge, Rutgers community.

00:10:20 Kylie

So even if you're missing stuff now, though, I'm telling you, you will get the alumni, like they're- they're amazing, and the events they offer and everything, so I wouldn't - I would still hold out for those events I think that are coming up.

00:10:35 Kylie

OK, so what would you say is your biggest takeaway from attending Rutgers?

00:10:40 Amanda Kim

I mean, uhm, I guess, just coming from a big school. I think there may be- more resources may be available to us once we graduate like, you like that - working with alumni and especially in New Jersey, there's so many connections with Rutgers University.

00:10:58 Kylie

Yeah, no, that's definitely a big thing. Do you have any advice for, you know, people who are maybe like in a career and similar to you... they're like, "you know what this might- This isn't for me." Do you have any advice for people who are, you know, going back to school and you know, like, maybe a hurdle that you had to jump through that maybe you feel that it's very common, but any advice for them?

00:11:21 Amanda Kim

You know, the worst thing you can do - not the worst thing, but you know being at a job that you don't enjoy or you know, you just, you know, you don't - you just don't like it. I mean, if I think for me, even though I enjoyed my job, I just wanted to do more and uhm, I think- I think it's really important to try to pursue whatever it is that you want to do.

00:11:48 Amanda Kim

Any advice? I guess -

00:11:50 Amanda Kim

Yeah, I think any advice would be, I think would just be just go for it. I mean there are certain circumstances that may prevent you from doing it, but I think if you have the means to do so and you really want to try something out differently, I would say, go for it!

00:12:05 Amanda Kim

I mean, it's the best advice I gave to myself and I'm here now so.

00:12:11 Kylie

Yeah, no, that's true, that's true.

00:12:13 Kylie

Yeah, well, congratulations. Uhm, you're so close to being done, so we're rooting for you. I'm glad that you know, Rutgers gave you this opportunity and I'm glad that, you know, Summer Session specifically, since you had to take, you know, the courses in a certain way, was there to help so.

00:12:33 Kylie

Yeah, thank you again for you know joining us and you know, telling us a little bit about yourself. Sharing your story.

00:12:41 Outro

Thanks for listening and we'll catch you next time on Extra Credit.