**Chat with Recent Graduates**

**Preparing for the NCLEX**

* UWorld was the most popular and highly recommended resource for studying.
* Lippincott Fast Facts for NCLEX RN was also mentioned. The book provides a review of many different medical conditions and their associated treatments.
* The graduates wrote their NCLEX anywhere from 4-12 weeks after completing the program.
* They each recommended studying during final practicum and then studying intensely for a few weeks before the NCLEX.
* Most took 2-3 weeks off work to prepare for the NCLEX.

**Applying for Jobs**

* Begin applying for jobs before you are finished school. You can give your resume to human resources in the hospital but most people recommend giving your resume directly the unit managers.
* You can be conditionally hired before you are finished the program and write the NCLEX.
* Most jobs are posted internally meaning that you need a job in the health region to see where the jobs are available.
* Make sure to change your email and voicemail to something professional!

**After Graduation and Before the NCLEX**

* After graduation you have to receive your Authorization to Test (ATT) before you can book a date for the NCLEX. You have to make an account with the SRNA and Pearson VUE in order to receive the proper documentation and book a date for the NCLEX. You must have your ATT and a date booked for your NCLEX in order to work as a grad nurse. A representative from the SRNA will discuss this information in greater detail in your fourth year!
* Creating an SRNA account and Pearson VUE account each have a fee associated with them.
* All of this information can be found on the SRNA website.

**Working as a Grad Nurse**

* Once the SRNA has reviewed your NCLEX application you have the option to apply for a grad nurse license.
* The license costs $190 and you will need to have a vulnerable sector check done.
* Your grad nurse license is valid for 4 months and it can be renewed a total of 3 times.
* Some of the nurses worked as grad nurses, others did not. Those that worked found it helpful as they were exposed to many different medical conditions and this hands on experience helped when writing the NCLEX. Others did not work as a grad nurse and chose to focus on studying and took some time off after completing the program.
* Not all units hire grad nurses so be aware of that when making your decision.
* If you are hired as a grad nurse or a registered nurse in Regina you will have to complete a general clinical orientation. You only have to complete this once whether you are a grad nurse or registered nurse. Each unit will have their own orientation and buddy shift system.

**The Transition from Student Nurse to Registered Nurse**

* You have to apply for a RN license through the SRNA. Once again there is a fee associated with this but often times your employer will reimburse you for this fee.
* Be honest about what you know. There is nothing wrong with not knowing something but be accountable and take time to look up procedures and ask questions.
* There is a lot of learning that occurs once you start as a nurse so make sure to ask for help and be transparent about your knowledge and skill set.
* Be kind and respectful!
* There are clinical resource nurses and nurse educators on each unit that can answer questions and help you with new skills.