

Meet the Instructor

Name: **Don Ryan**

Program: **Practical Nursing and LPN to RN Transition**

Don has dedicated over 37 years to nursing since graduating from KTC in 1988. He and his wife of 36 years have three grown children. When not managing his business or teaching, Don enjoys golf.

What is your educational background and career experience? Don began his career as an LPN at age 20 after graduating from KTC. His extensive education includes an Associates in Accounting (COTC), an Associates in Nursing (SUNY), a Bachelor of Nursing (Notre Dame College), and a Master's in Nursing (WGU). After five years as a bedside nurse, he transitioned to specialized roles, starting and managing his own case management business. His current work involves self-employment as a case manager, life planner, and expert witness. He continues to teach at KTC 1-2 days per week.

What do you enjoy most about teaching this subject? Don finds it rewarding to instruct at his alma mater. As he states, "It's fun to teach a program that I graduated from, it's like I have come full circle." He sees his role as supporting the next generation: "I enjoy the ability to give back and help the next generation." He thrives on classroom interaction, adding, "I enjoy interacting with the students, they are inquisitive and want to learn."

What is your approach to teaching adult learners, especially those who may be returning to education after a break or changing careers? "Since I was an adult student myself, I am receptive to their situation and needs. I actively seek ways to connect new material to their existing professional or life experience, using it as a foundation for learning rather than starting from a blank slate. This makes the content immediately more meaningful".

How do you stay current with the latest evidence-based practices and integrate them into your curriculum? Don maintains currency by reading current nursing journals, attending at least one conference annually, and continually collaborating with faculty colleagues. They frequently hold ad hoc meetings to discuss curriculum, current literature, and contemporary case studies.

What career paths are students typically prepared for after completing this course? Students are prepared to become licensed LPNs or RNs, depending on their program. Don shares his experience in non-traditional nursing paths (like case management) to broaden their scope of practice and highlight diverse professional opportunities.