

I thoroughly enjoyed my first clinical in the emergency department. I enjoy having to think on my feet and moving quickly and that is what I encountered as soon as I walked in. All of the rooms were full and even though I was nervous about being in the way, the nurses brought me along. It was interesting to watch patients be treated in the ED and then the procedure to transfer them over to the med-surg wing. Since most of my clinical experience was on the med-surg floor, I appreciated the different perspective and began to understand the criteria for discharging, transferring, or admitting patients.

I'm the type person that performs better the busier I am. I used to bartend/serve at a popular bar in downtown Champaign, and the ED almost reminds me of that. Bartending and working as a nurse in the ED both require prioritizing and multi-tasking and I thrive in environments like that. When I graduate, I want to work in the ED and/or ICU to eventually become a flight nurse. During my shift in the ED, I was lucky enough (not so much for the patient) to watch the process of calling AirLife and was even able to talk to the pilot and take pictures in the helicopter. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience in the ED and learned a lot from the nurses in that department.