



NURSING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES CHANGE THE COURSE

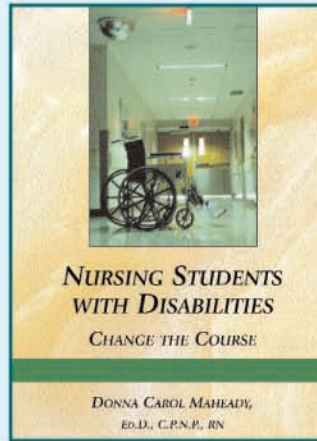
Donna Carol Maheady, Ed.D., C.P.N.P., RN

We learn by experience, both personally and systemically. Donna Carol Maheady has used her personal experience as a nursing educator teaching nursing students with disabilities, and as a parent of a child with significant disabilities, to write "Nursing Students with Disabilities: Change the Course". We all have the opportunity to learn from her experiences.

Nursing Students with Disabilities charts the course of eight nursing students who have disabilities as they complete arduous nursing training. The students' stories, by themselves, are inspirational and educational. By describing their own challenges of deafness, Crohn's Disease, physical disabilities, etc., the students show us that where there is a will there is a way.

Maheady takes the students' experience and extends it to the next level by adapting the individualized educational approach used in special education to the nursing program and creating individualized nursing education programs. Her approach is unique and fulfills a broader need in the community of people with disabilities.

Several years ago we agreed to write an accommodation plan for an adult who had Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder



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[ADHD] and was experiencing difficulties at work. We found many books that discussed the medical aspects of ADHD and explained treatment by medication. We found no books explaining how to write ADHD accommodation plans even though most of the books acknowledged that people with ADHD have the right to accommodation plans.

Maheady's book closes the gap between the right to a plan and the means to develop the plan. The eight students explain their experiences and Maheady then creates individualized plans that describe how their disabilities can be accommodated in the nursing school setting. She does us all a favor by using an approach that is adaptable across

disabilities and across work and educational settings. For those of us who have struggled with writing accommodation plans from scratch, Maheady's book will become an invaluable resource that will make accommodation plans more accessible to people with disabilities and those who support them.

Nursing Students with Disabilities contains excellent advocacy, educational, financial and assistive technology resources specifically tailored to people who are contemplating a nursing or medical educational program. As such, her resources are not as easily adapted across settings and occupations, but they still provide guidance to readers looking for help in non-medical education areas. The advocacy and assistive technology resources areas are particularly suited to that purpose.

People contemplating medical educations will need this book. People who have struggled with developing accommodation plans will find Maheady's work to be both inspirational and informative. We particularly like the strategy she used to adapt the special education IEP approach to developing nursing education accommodation plans, because many if not most of those who will use this book already are familiar with IEPs and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA]. We heartily endorse this book and award it the Exceptional Parent Symbol of Excellence.

Review graciously provided by Calvin and Tricia Luker.

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