

SUCCESS STORY

OF THE 49 YEARS OLD

Nursing License Completion Program (HELITAM) have started to accept students in 2009-2010 Academic Year. The program has been conducted by Ataturk University Faculty of Health Sciences and Distance Education Application and Research Center. HELITAM is a license completion program of two years executed in accordance with memorandum between Ministry of Health and Atatürk University with the aim of enabling medical staffs having graduated from associate degree of Nursing and Health Officer department/program and working in public or private sector to complete their license program. 23.000 students enrolled the program in two years.

Courses in HELITAM program are taught through the “distance learning” method which expresses multiple education pathways. The program includes practices sessions at hospitals, face to face assessments and learning materials. Several of course materials were used in this asynchronous learning environment such as videos, e-learning package, course notes and other online resources.

This is a success story of a student who studied in HELITAM program below.

Müzeyyen SOMUNCULAR COLAKOGLU



Müzeyyen SOMUNCULAR ÇOLAKOĞLU at her own graduation ceremony in 2011

I have never forgotten that amateurs built the Noah's ark and professionals built the Titanic...

I was born in Tasköprü village of Sultandagı district in Afyon on 02. 04. 1963. I continued my education life in beautiful cities of my beautiful country.

I completed primary and secondary education in Sultandagı Tasköprü village and Health College in Salihli district of Manisa in 1983. I completed my Nursing Associate Degree of Eskisehir, Anadolu University in 1997.



Müzeyyen SOMUNCULAR COLAKOĞLU, at the graduation ceremony together with her husband Ibrahim COLAKOĞLU next to her and with her daughter Elif Tugce COLAKOĞLU, son Selçuk Türkalp COLAKOĞLU in 2010

I have been working as a nurse in different hospitals since 1983. I have been working as a occupational health and safety nurse in Dr. Lütfi Kırdar Kartal Education and Research Hospital since 1987. I have a 24 year daughter and a 14 year old son.

My heart was filled with the excitement of having the opportunity of studying again when I heard that nurses who were graduates of associate degree were granted with the right to be a graduate of license program. When friends said "the right of license is being granted, what we will do now?" I told without hesitation "what a nice event! We will study together" and became of the students who enrolled immediately. I was going to graduate from university a year after my daughter.

I was very of myself when I went to enroll in the university with my husband and I was very proud of myself.

After enrolling, I thought constantly in ferry that I would start to university again and would be a graduate of license degree. I almost forgot my husband and children while thinking this. Because I was Müzeyyen SOMUNCULAR who cried for three days as her father did not allow to study. Because I was Müzeyyen SOMUNCULAR who could go on

studying and could enroll in Health College thanks to grandfather who persuaded to her father...

Being able to study again made me feel excited and this excitement was also felt in my family. My son was always trying to encourage me by telling "Mummy, you will a graduate of university".

Although I completed college in a very complicated and story period, I was able to graduate from Health College. When I told to my father "I want to take my chance by taking university exam", his answer was "it is enough, my daughter. I sent you to school, try to get married from now on. After getting married, if your husband allows you to study, you can go on studying". My husband who witnessed my demand and love for studying, have always supported me. In truth, my husband provided me with education opportunities as much as my father. And I cried, cried, cried... I wanted to shout but I was in a ferry. So I couldn't.

I felt like living in a mystify with this excitement. I was able to come back to real life only after the start of academic year. Courses started with the academic year. Being a mother, a nurse and also a student of Ataturk University which is a very long-established university at the same time, was very difficult for me. The fact that women are in working life meant that they had to define some roles in some parts of their life and live according to these roles. I had got used to be a mother and a nurse at the same time. But when a new role was added to these, I started to think that I couldn't bear all of these and decided to drop out with the most radical decision I could make. This wasn't an issue just concerning me. When I lost all my hopes and excitement, my family did not and they always supported me. When I announced my decision to drop out, my son preparing for an exam to go to a good high school called SBS told me that "mummy, please don't leave school. I promise I will do my best to help you to finish school. Please don't "and I decided to go on my way by following his advice.

I started to spare the required time to my courses after my decision to go on university. But course notes were being issued through internet. My biggest supporter in this issue was my son. Because I couldn't use the internet professionally as much as my son. My son did his best to help me and he archived all documents of courses. He explained and helped me to understand subjects which I couldn't understand especially in Biostatistics and I finished the university thanks to him.

I was paying strict attention not only to my courses but also to exams with the support of my family and especially my son. I studies lessons until 04:00 am especially in the final exam period. I don't remember I have studied that much in my life. When I learnt in International Relations and Communication course of Nursing that the age of forty and over is the most difficult period to learn. I focused more on my studies by saying that "Woe to me, I have to succeed this, I shouldn't let people say that Müzeyyen couldn't finish the university".

I finished my first grade thank to my son's endless support and self-sacrifice. After I got over inexperience of first grade, I started to encourage all my friends in direction of studying.

We finished our university in 2009-2010 academic year with a crowded group from our institution. I can say that we had almost any difficulties while studying with distant education.

On the contrary, being able to study our courses when we were at home or available made it easy to go on studying very much. Our university gave the required support to us with telephone and e-mail in all issues we had problems. All of these were unobtainable

opportunities for us in this age. I am looking forward to the opening of post-graduate program of our university...

Endless thanks to

My very special ATATURK UNIVERSITY providing me with this opportunity,

All ACADEMICIANS giving the opportunity of being a student again,

My hospital administrators,

My son, daughter and husband...

Rest in peace, my GRANDFATHER leading to all of these...

Being a student of ATATURK UNIVERSITY is certainly a privilege...

First Graduate

Charge Nurse Müzeyyen COLAKOGLU

Dr. Lütfi Kırdar Kartal Education and Research Hospital

Institutional Quality Performance Unit

Personnel Safety