

DE'LISA GAINES

BSN, RN

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Subject: Application for New Graduate RN Residency Program

Dear Hiring Manager,

Nursing, for me, has never been just a career choice, it is a calling rooted in a deep desire to advocate for those who need a voice and to provide compassionate, skillful care to patients during their most vulnerable moments. As I prepare to graduate from Azusa Pacific University's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in July 2026, I am eager to bring my proactive spirit, my strong clinical foundation, and my unwavering commitment to patient advocacy to your New Graduate Nurse Residency Program.

From the very beginning of my nursing education, I understood that true clinical competence is built not just in the classroom, but at the bedside. That is why, midway through my nursing program, I made the intentional decision to seek employment as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Southern California Hospital in Culver City. I wanted to immerse myself in the hospital environment, to learn from experienced nurses and staff, and to practice the art of presence and compassionate care with every patient encounter. Working 12-hour shifts, three to four days per week, has been one of the most formative experiences of my training. It has taught me to adapt quickly, to communicate effectively under pressure, and to remain calm and focused, even in the middle of the night when staffing is lighter and patients need you most.

This hands-on experience has complemented and enriched my clinical rotations, where I have completed 945 hours across eight specialty areas. My rotations include Beginning Medical-Surgical, Intermediate Medical-Surgical, and Advanced Nursing Care of Adults at PIH Whittier Hospital in Whittier, Mental Health Nursing at Aurora Las Encinas Hospital in Pasadena, Maternal Newborn Nursing at Adventist White Memorial in Los Angeles, Children's Nursing at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena, Community Health Nursing at Casa Treatment Center in Pasadena and City of Azusa Senior Center in Azusa.

Throughout every clinical rotation, I have been proactive in my learning. I do not wait for opportunities to come to me; I seek them out. I ask questions. I request to observe new procedures. I believe that nursing is a profession of lifelong learning, and I am committed to growing every single day.

My decision to work as a CNA while completing my degree reflects this philosophy. I wanted to build my bedside manner not just through observation, but through action. I wanted to learn how to turn a patient who cannot move themselves, how to calm a family member who is afraid, how to notice the small changes in a patient's condition that might signal something bigger. These are the skills that cannot be fully taught in a textbook, they must be lived. And I have lived them, shift after shift, patient after patient.

Now, as I prepare to transition into practice as a registered nurse, I am seeking a residency program that values the same things I do; clinical excellence, compassionate care, and a genuine commitment to advocating for patients. I am drawn to Southern California Hospital because of your reputation for supporting new graduates, your dedication to serving the local community, your focus on holistic care. I am confident that my proactive approach to learning, my extensive clinical and CNA experience, and my deep passion for patient advocacy make me a strong candidate for your program.

Thank you for considering my application. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my journey, my strengths, and my commitment align with the needs of your team and your patients.

With gratitude and determination,



De'Lisa Gaines, RN-BSN Candidate
Azusa Pacific University, Class of 2026

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Carson, CA 90746

Dedicated new grad who believes nursing begins at the bedside. Every patient deserves to be seen heard and cared for with dignity. I chose to work as a CNA during nursing school to build my skills where they matter most. I am proactive in my learning and intentional in my presence. My goal is to advocate for my patients and become the nurse I would want caring for my own family.

SKILLS

- Patient Assessment & Vital Sign Monitoring
- Medication Administration & Prioritization of Complex Care
- Therapeutic Communication & Patient Advocacy
- Family Centered Care Across the Lifespan
- Adaptability in High Acuity & Diverse Clinical Settings
- Understanding of Social Determinants of Health

EXPERIENCE

CLINICAL ROTATION EXPERIENCE

Monrovia, CA

Azusa Pacific University

January 2025 - Present

- Advanced Nursing Care of Adults - 135 hours - PIH Health Whittier Hospital, Whittier, CA
- Intermediate Medical-Surgical - 135 hours - PIH Health Whittier Hospital, Whittier, CA
- Clinical Residency - 180 hours - Site Pending
- Community Health Nursing - 135 hours - Casa Treatment Center, Pasadena, CA and City of Azusa Senior Center, Azusa, CA
- Beginning Medical-Surgical - 90 hours - PIH Health Whittier Hospital, Whittier, CA
- Mental Health Nursing - 90 hours - Aurora Las Encinas Hospital, Pasadena, CA
- Maternal Newborn Nursing - 90 hours - Adventist Health White Memorial, Los Angeles, CA
- Children's Nursing - 90 hours - Huntington Hospital, Pasadena, CA
- **Total Clinical Hours: 945**

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

Culver City, CA

Southern California Hospital

September 2025 - Present

- Provide direct patient care across Telemetry, Medical-Surgical, ICU, Emergency Department, and Psychiatric units during 12-hour shifts, 3-4 days per week.
- Perform vital sign monitoring, ADL assistance, and accurate clinical documentation in a fast-paced Level II Trauma Center.

- Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to ensure patient safety and positive outcomes.
- Adapt quickly to diverse patient populations and unit protocols.

EDUCATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) IN NURSING (PMHNP) CANDIDATE

Azusa Pacific University, **Azusa, CA, US**

Expected graduation Jul 2028

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.) IN NURSING CANDIDATE

Azusa Pacific University, **Monrovia, CA, US**

GPA 3.8

Expected graduation Jul 2026

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN PSYCHOLOGY

California State University Dominguez Hills, **Carson, CA, US**

Dec 2021

Awards & Honors

- Cum Laude
- Honors in Major

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS (A.A.) IN PSYCHOLOGY

Los Angeles City College, **Los Angeles, CA**

Jun 2020

LICENSE & CERTIFICATIONS

- Registered Nurse (RN) - State of California (expected Summer 2026)
- ECG Certification (expected May 2026)
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) - American Heart Association (expected May 2026)
- NIHSS Stroke Certification
- Basic Life Support (BLS) – American Heart Association

AWARDS

- HRSA Nurse Corps Scholar
- 2026 APU Research Symposium — ELM Category Winner
- Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Society

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

View My Portfolio at www.DeLisaGaines.com