

SIX GREAT REASONS TO START NCF

1. A MINISTRY VACUUM EXISTS IN THIS “CORNER” OF CAMPUS

Among all the major “corners” of campus, the nursing school is one of the few that has no parallel ministry organization. In other words, *there is no other ministry that reaches out to nursing students* besides NCF. If your ambition is to go where the gospel has not been preached (Romans 15:20), nursing school is an unreached corner! (As a bonus, this means you won’t face any ministry “competition” as you plant there!)

2. SELF-MOTIVATED, MATURE STUDENT LEADERS

Can you imagine having student leaders who are mature, organized, responsible, and highly self-motivated? What about student leaders with classroom training and substantial experience in how to care well for others? These are the types of students you can find in nursing school—they are learning how to be professionals while in school. This means student leaders who need less hand-holding (and emotional energy!) from you.

3. WORLD-CHANGING GRADUATES

As InterVarsity staff, we care about seeing “world changers developed.” The typical nurse will interact with 500 patients in a year, with 500 opportunities to impact patients with the words and love of Christ! When you invest in a nursing student, you are really investing in a future world-changer!

4. SPIRITUAL OPENNESS

The Holy Spirit can use intense experiences to heighten people’s openness to the gospel. Nursing school is, by definition, a very intense experience. Demanding and fast-paced classroom instruction, long clinical days in challenging settings, stresses of never-ending quizzes and tests, all happening within a tight-knit student network. No wonder there is a high level of spiritual hunger among nursing students! These students are desperate for someone to help them make sense of illness, death, and suffering—you could be that answer!

5. CAMPUS ACCESS

Because NCF is a professional membership organization, our name can gain InterVarsity access to closed-off schools. For example, NCF has made inroads to Catholic and denominational Christian schools that may be slow to welcome InterVarsity. Planting NCF can be an easy first step to getting InterVarsity future access to the campus!

6. LIMITED TIME INVESTMENT—AS LITTLE AS 1 HOUR A WEEK

Who says that planting requires a lot of time? Because of the quality of student leaders and tight-knit nursing school network, planting NCF requires generally very little time. With an identified student leader and faculty advisor, many InterVarsity staff can successfully resource and plant an NCF chapter in an hour a week. Just an hour a week to plant on an unreached corner of campus that’s desperate for the gospel—how much better can it get?

SIX TRAITS OF NURSING STUDENTS

Below is a quick summary of key traits of nursing students. For a fuller explanation of each, please see the Appendix on page 11.

TRAIT	REALITY	IMPLICATIONS
Very busy people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very little free time • Inflexible schedules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit meetings (e.g. no LG attendance, no weekly 1-on-1s) • Determine NCF meeting time around school schedules
Caring, mature, responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be slow to open up • Always caring for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care well for them personally • Concrete acts of kindness
High achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive environment • High fear of failure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need encouragement • Need permission to fail • Leaders may be reluctant to take risks or come in with unrealistically high ideals and expectations of what chapter can accomplish
High spiritual needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences raise spiritual questions • Unsure of how/where to ask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create space for spiritual questions/exploration
Career-focused	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything is about nursing • Unsure how to integrate faith with vocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer content related to faith and nursing • Training on spiritual care
Tight social network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of time with fellow students • Keeping peace important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help students see network as evangelistic opportunity • Train on non-confrontational evangelistic strategies