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From a very young age, Brooke dreamed of being a nurse. Her plan was to complete high school and move on to postsecondary to study nursing. But life, sometimes, serves us a curve.

Brooke quit high school when she was 17 to have her first son, Alex. Three years later, Ben came along. Three years after that her daughter, Lacey, completed a beautiful family.

Brooke proudly attests that motherhood is the best thing that ever happened to her. But it put her career plans on the back burner. Finally, with her kids all in school, she decided it was time to focus on her dream.

Knowing she needed to upgrade some of her courses before she applied to Georgian College, Brooke made the call to Academic and Career Preparation (ACP) at the Owen Sound Campus.

“During my initial meeting, I shed a few tears of excitement,” says Brooke. “I’ve worked in caregiving roles in long-term care and retirement homes; but I wanted to do more. To expand my skills and knowledge. To be a nurse like the ones I watched every day. Without the help of Georgian, none of this would be possible.”

Brooke spent the next year fulfilling her upgrading requirements. She applied to Georgian’s Practical Nursing program and received a conditional offer while still taking her biology course.

“Academic upgrading changed my life for the better. It set me up for future skills and taught me about myself and what I was able to accomplish after not being in school for so long.

I will always thank my teachers who pushed me and believed in me. I felt so prepared for my program and still use the tools I was taught during upgrading.”



Having just completed her first year as a nursing student, she realizes she couldn’t have done it without the help of the ACP program and its faculty and staff.

“I hope I can inspire fellow students who think they can’t go to school because of children, family struggles or whatnot. If I can attend full time, with three kids and a partner of 13 years, anyone can do it. I was that person who did not think any of this would be possible at this point in my life. I am doing it — and soon I will say I *did* it.”