

Ng Aik Hong Desmond

Nitec in Nursing

ITE College East



Learning for Life

A firm believer in lifelong learning, Desmond demonstrated this by successfully going through three very different careers. He first started out as a pastry chef. He then made the switch to do administrative work, despite having zero knowledge on how to use a computer. He learnt on the job and stayed in that line for 19 years until he decided to make yet another switch – this time to nursing. Inspired by the nurses' professionalism and care they showed his grandmother, Desmond enrolled for the full-time nursing course under the Professional Conversion Programme in 2020.

At 50, Desmond was more than twice the age of most of his classmates, but that did not deter him from having an active campus life! He was diligent in his work, putting in extra effort so he did not fall behind. He also participated in several community activities and was known as the 'dad of the class'. Today, he is enjoying his third career as an Enrolled Nurse, proving age is no barrier when it comes to learning!

All in the Mind

"It takes courage to switch careers, but I want to challenge myself and learn new things. I was initially afraid I could not catch up. I only studied up till 'N' levels, so I had to put in three times the effort! But the teachers at ITE taught in a well-structured manner. As long as I put in the effort, I could follow. I want to be a nurse for as long as I can."

After ITE

Desmond is currently enjoying his new career as an Enrolled Nurse at Singapore General Hospital.

Top Achievements

- Desmond's extra effort in his studies saw him being placed on the Director's List for two semesters in 2020. He also earned the Edusave Character Award (2020), Edusave Merit Bursary and Certificate of Academic Achievement (2020) and Edusave Award for Achievement, Good Leadership and Service (2020).
- He is also an active member of the Rotary Club and was appointed Vice-President of Community Services in 2021. Desmond was awarded the Platinum CCA Award and Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award (2021) for his many contributions.
- During clinical attachments, Desmond was self-motivated and demonstrated passion to improve his skills. His ability to apply his skills showed in the excellent care he provides to his patients, which impressed his supervisors.