

Susan Sims-Giddens, EdD, RN  
BSN-Completion Program Director  
Missouri State University

### **Never Enough Hours**

Nursing education is not easy, regardless of the college or university program a student may enter. During my nursing education, I like many students worked and attended school. In addition to my part-time employment, attending school full-time, I had a boy friend – and boy friends do take time! As I recall, it had been an extremely hectic year, especially the spring semester. That particular spring semester our assignments included two full days of class on campus and two full days of clinical at the local hospital, in addition to the 20 hours I worked each week and my “social life”. Needless to say my grades that spring semester reflected the hectic pace.

Finally, our spring break had arrived! As our last clinical experience concluded for the week, my friends and I were standing in line to submit our care plans. As with all students spring break had been much anticipated and our enthusiasm for a f-u-l-l week away from our studies hit a fever pitch. We were only minutes away from freedom, rest, and recuperation as I turned to my best friend Glenda and said, “I thought Spring Break would never get here!” A deep voice from the end of the line stated, “Why, Miss Sims, I thought you had been on spring break all semester!” My nursing instructor, who I absolutely knew had eyes in the back of her head, as well as a keen sense of hearing, had totally devastated me!

Many years later, after completing my initial nursing program, two advanced degrees and entering a doctoral program; I entered a hotel ballroom for a nursing conference. I walked to a seating area, placed my registration packet on the table, and looked at the people sitting at my table. One lady had her back to me; however, the back of her head vaguely looked familiar. As the lady turned, yes, there was my nursing instructor from so many years ago. She greeted me with that same deep voice, “Well, if it isn’t Miss Sims. How are you dear? And, what are you doing these days?” We visited and reminisced over the next several days, however, I never did tell her how totally embarrassed I was not to have performed better academically during my initial nursing education!

As I work with students in my current faculty position, I always remember that there are never enough hours in the day or enough days in the week for all of life’s activities.