Three sisters drawn to convenience, high-quality education at USMH

When sisters Megan McQuillen, Lauren Henry, and Caitlin Kim decided to pursue careers in nursing, they turned to the University System of Maryland Hagerstown (USMH).

The nursing program is identical to the one offered at the Towson main campus and clinicals are all completed in western Maryland and greater Baltimore areas. Only nursing courses are offered as a part of this program.

McQuillen initially pursued classes in physical therapy but later realized she wanted a more hands-on approach with patients. She reached out to USMH about their Towson University nursing program and became a part of their first spring cohort class in January 2010. McQuillen graduated from the nursing program in December 2011 and worked in the emergency room at Meritus Health for more than a decade before leaving her position after the birth of her fourth child.

With an interest in biology, science, and the human body since high school, Kim decided to pursue a career in nursing as well. After graduating from Towson University at USMH in December 2017, she has worked in the emergency room at Meritus Health since February 2018.

Henry was drawn to nursing because of her sisters’ love for their professions. After earning a bachelor’s in exercise science and psychology in 2010, she decided to go back to school to earn a degree in nursing. “I live in Hagerstown and I wanted to be close and I didn’t want to have to move away from the community that I have here,” she says. Henry graduated this past Spring and received a job offer from Meritus Health shortly after.

Henry and McQuillen both received scholarships from USMH to help with their education. The financial aid “really helped me be able to focus on my studies and not have to work and worry about student loans,” Henry said. Students enrolled in programs at USMH have the opportunity to apply for and receive scholarships from both the home institution and USMH.

All three cited USMH’s convenient Downtown location as one of the main reasons they chose the institution. “We all grew up in downtown Hagerstown,” Kim says. “…I really wasn’t interested in going away to school and paying all those extra fees. I love that (USMH is) in my hometown.”