



ACCREDITING BUREAU OF HEALTH EDUCATION SCHOOLS
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Graduate Success Story

“Twenty-One Years Later and Loving It”

Ms. Debra Wilson, 1987 Medical Assistant Graduate, Ross Medical Education Center

Debra Wilson was a single mother whose major occupations were raising two young children and babysitting so other women could pursue their careers. When her youngest entered kindergarten, Debra entered the Medical Assistant program at Ross, and less than a year later, she was already on her way to a fulfilling career.

“I knew at the time that I needed to find something that would pay more than minimum wage,” she said. “I always had been interested in the medical profession, and when I saw a TV commercial about Ross, I gave them a call.”

One thing that appealed to her about Ross, she said, was that it was possible to start working quickly. “The accelerated program at Ross was important to me because I needed to start making more money,” Debra said.

She entered in the fall, and the following summer she was doing an externship in family practice at the Michigan State University Clinical Center. She was offered a job before she got even halfway through. “The externship is a great part of the program, because it gives you on-the-job training,” Debra said. “In my case, it also got me my job.”

She believed so much in the value of externships that when she started working in internal medicine, she asked her supervisor if she could contact Ross to establish an externship program in that department, too. The supervisor said yes. Debra called Ross for a second time and, for the past 20 years, she and two other grads of the Ross Medical Assistant program have supervised externs. Many of those externs went on to get positions at the center.

Debra wanted to get her career underway quickly and, 21 years later, she’s glad she did. “Here I am,” she said, “Twenty-one years later, still working at the center and loving what I do.”