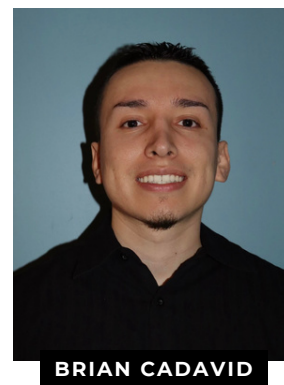


# “You Never Know What’s Coming Through the Doors” — One Nurse’s Journey from Grad School to Game Day”

Brian Cadavid used every part of his MSN experience — from clinicals to campus EMS — to land an emergency care career like no other.



BRIAN CADAVID

As a full-time emergency room nurse, Brian Cadavid is used to thinking on his feet — treating everything from chest pains to trauma, from toddlers to 95-year-olds, often within minutes of each other. It’s a pace he thrives on.

“You have to stay sharp,” Brian says. “In emergency medicine, it’s not just about having skills. It’s about using them under pressure — on demand.”

That mindset has carried him from Montclair’s classrooms and clinical sites to the high-intensity floors of a hospital ER — and even to the sidelines of MetLife Stadium, where he’s part of the medical team covering National Football League games, concerts, and international sporting events.

It’s not the path he envisioned when he first arrived at Montclair as an undergraduate student in 2016. But it’s one that’s been built intentionally, through relationships, training, and a graduate program designed to open doors for students ready to serve.

“I did my undergrad program at Montclair,” he explains. “So when I started looking into nursing programs, it made sense to come back. I was familiar with the campus, the systems, the people. And honestly, the pre-licensure MSN just stood out.”

While many programs in the region offered an accelerated second bachelor’s in nursing, Montclair offered something more — a master’s-level pathway for students without a prior nursing degree. “It was affordable, it added a graduate credential, and it felt like a better long-term investment. I knew it would set me up for more options down the line, and it already has.”

Montclair’s pre-licensure MSN isn’t just about clinical competence; it’s designed to shape well-rounded nurses with exposure to the full spectrum of care. Through clinical rotations, Brian worked in med-surg, behavioral health, step-down ICU, OB/GYN, and population/community health.

“They really did a good job of placing us in a variety of settings,” he says. “You weren’t siloed into one specialty. You were able to see how different teams work, how different patients present, and how healthcare systems function from every angle.”

But for Brian, the program’s impact went far beyond the hospital walls. While at Montclair, he joined the university’s ambulance squad, gaining real-world experience in pre-hospital care — and building connections that would later prove pivotal.

“Fast forward a few years, and one of the people I met on that squad reached out to me with an opportunity to join the medical team at MetLife Stadium,” he says. “I’m a huge sports fan, so it was kind of surreal.”

Now, in addition to working as an ER nurse, Brian covers NFL games for the New York Giants and Jets, international soccer matches, and high-capacity concerts on site. With the FIFA Club World Cup arriving in 2025 — and the World Cup itself in 2026 — he’s already gearing up for some of the biggest events in the world.

“There’s nothing like it,” he says. “It’s the same mindset as the ER. You’ve got to be ready for anything, and it keeps your skills razor-sharp.” That constant readiness is something Montclair helped instill in him from the start. The program didn’t just offer information — it offered momentum.

“When you graduate and get a job right out of school in the field you trained for, it feels like everything clicks,” he says. “The time spent in clinicals, the nights studying, all of it — it’s worth it.”

For students considering a career change or wondering whether they’re cut out for a graduate-level nursing program, Brian doesn’t sugarcoat the commitment — but he does emphasize the payoff.

“It’s intense. But it’s built to prepare you,” he says. “Montclair helped me build a foundation that I use every single day — whether it’s in the ER, in the community, or on the field. If you’re serious about nursing, this program gives you the tools. You just have to bring the drive.”