**Nursing Undergraduate Curriculum Quality Improvement Using Action Research**

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**ABSTRACT**

The UWEC undergraduate traditional baccalaureate nursing program initiated a major revision to the curriculum in fall 2013. The first cohort of BSN students graduated in spring 2016. Based on the evaluation data from standardized testing, areas in the undergraduate curriculum were identified for improvement. One intervention that was initiated was monthly student educational enrichment sessions offered to all students. The second intervention involved individual tutoring for students meeting at-risk criteria. An action research project was developed to include students for the ongoing development, feedback, and research development of the interventions.

**PURPOSE**

- Critically appraise the educational strategies implemented within the undergraduate curriculum improvement plan
- Involve students in the appraisal process through Action Research

**METHODOLOGY**

Action research methodology is a systematic research process that can be articulated by the researcher, involving data collection and analysis as well as reflection and discussion with co-researchers or others for the purpose of making change in a situation over time (Moch et al, 2016).

**STUDENT SUPPORT SURVEY**

- N = 35 participants across 5 nursing cohorts

Student Enrichment Series
- Poor attendance
- Suggestions for increasing attendance
- Topic suggestions for future sessions

Faculty Tutoring
- Generally positive feedback for those who utilized

**CULTURE OF LEARNING**

**COHORT FOCUS GROUPS**

Gathered student data to appraise evidence based actions initiated in the undergraduate curriculum improvement program during 2017-2018.

- N = 15 across the 5 cohorts of the nursing program (Sophomore 2, Junior 1, Junior 2, Senior 1 and Senior 2)
- Themes identified from content analysis:
  - Consistency
  - Communication
  - Transparency
  - Sophomore 2 Transition
  - Faculty Support

**INCIVILITY**

**SURVEY**

N = 85 students and 29 faculty

Reported Strategies for Improvement

- Students
  - Role model professionalism and civility
  - Integrate civility into performance evaluations
  - Personal responsibility and accountability for actions

- Faculty
  - Establish a Code of Conduct
  - Role model professionalism and civility
  - Provide training for effective communication and conflict resolution

**STUDENT REFLECTIONS**

- Gained expanded perspective and appreciation for student-faculty roles and relationships
- Increased awareness of expected behavior in professional programs
- Developed understanding and use of the Action Research process
- Recognized the power of student voices as co-researchers in Action Research

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

- Hired Pre-Licensure Academic Success Coordinator
- Development of Nursing Code of Conduct
- Implementation of Nursing Code of Conduct
- Re-evaluation

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