

# Assessing Baccalaureate Nursing Students Attitudes towards Teamwork and

## Communication Using TeamSTEPPS™

### Teamwork Attitudes Questionnaire Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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#### Purpose of the Study

To assess the attitudes of junior and senior level nursing students regarding the various components of teamwork as it relates to their current level of education regarding patient care and safety.

#### Background

Baccalaureate programs are challenged to prepare graduates who are able to demonstrate leadership and communication skills to effect healthy patient outcomes

The department's Systematic Program Assessment Plan (SPAP) has identified the program is not meeting the benchmark on several indicators for communication.

TeamSTEPPS™ is an evidence-based teamwork system aimed at improving communication and teamwork skills in the health care professional.

Earlier identification of missing components will allow us to tailor the curriculum to these areas identified as needing improvement.

#### Methodology

- Students enrolled in NURS 330, 332, and 412 from 2015
- Study population included N= 94 (12 males and 80 female, 2 unidentified) students enrolled in these courses
- TeamSTEPPS™ constructs; team structure(TS); leadership (L); situation monitoring (SM); mutual support (MS) and communication (C).

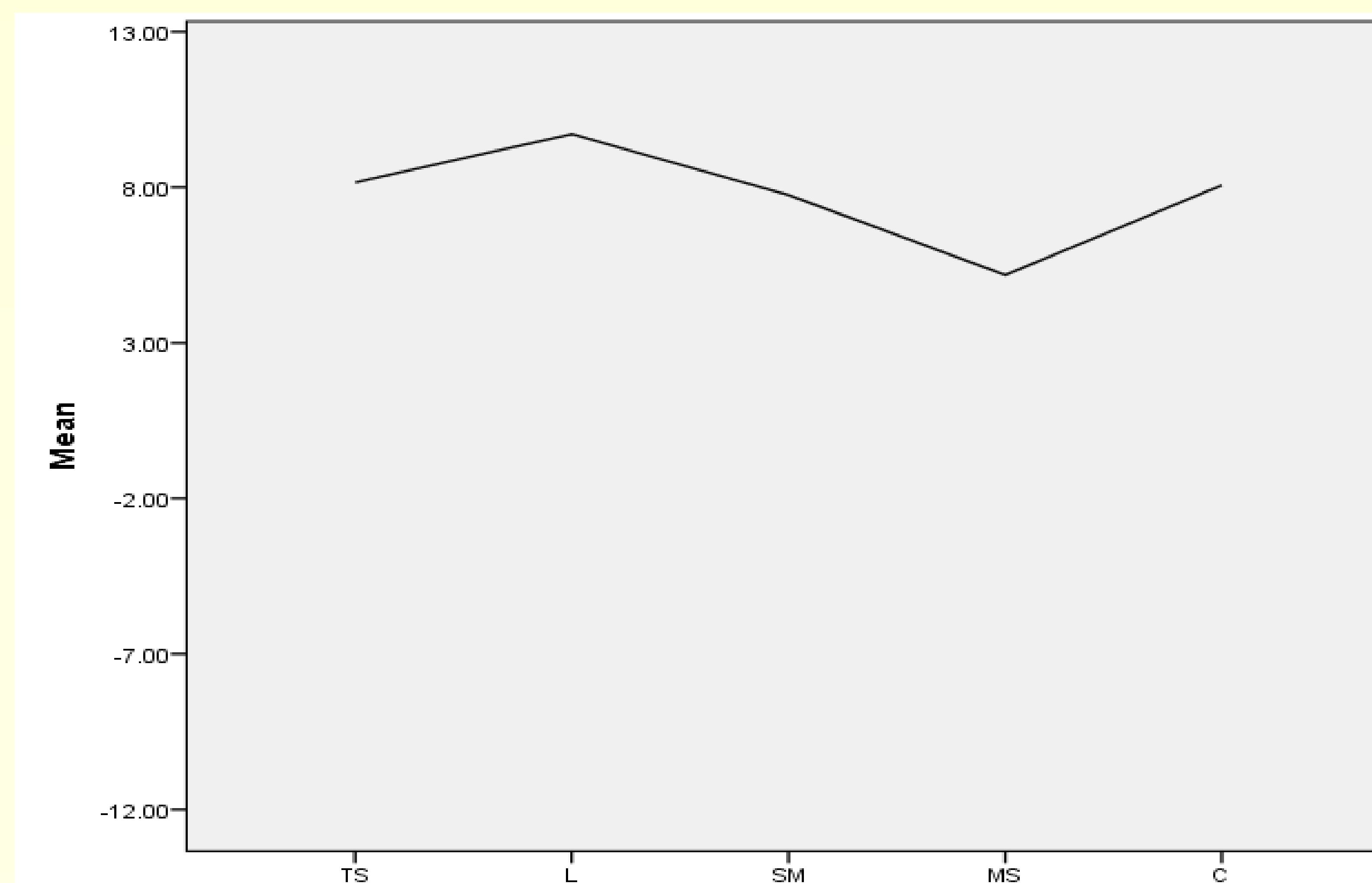
#### Procedure

- An information sheet, demographic survey and the TeamSTEPPS™ Teamwork Attitudes Questionnaire (T-TAQ) was distributed to all potential students regarding the study
- Data analyzed using SPSS version 22.

#### Results

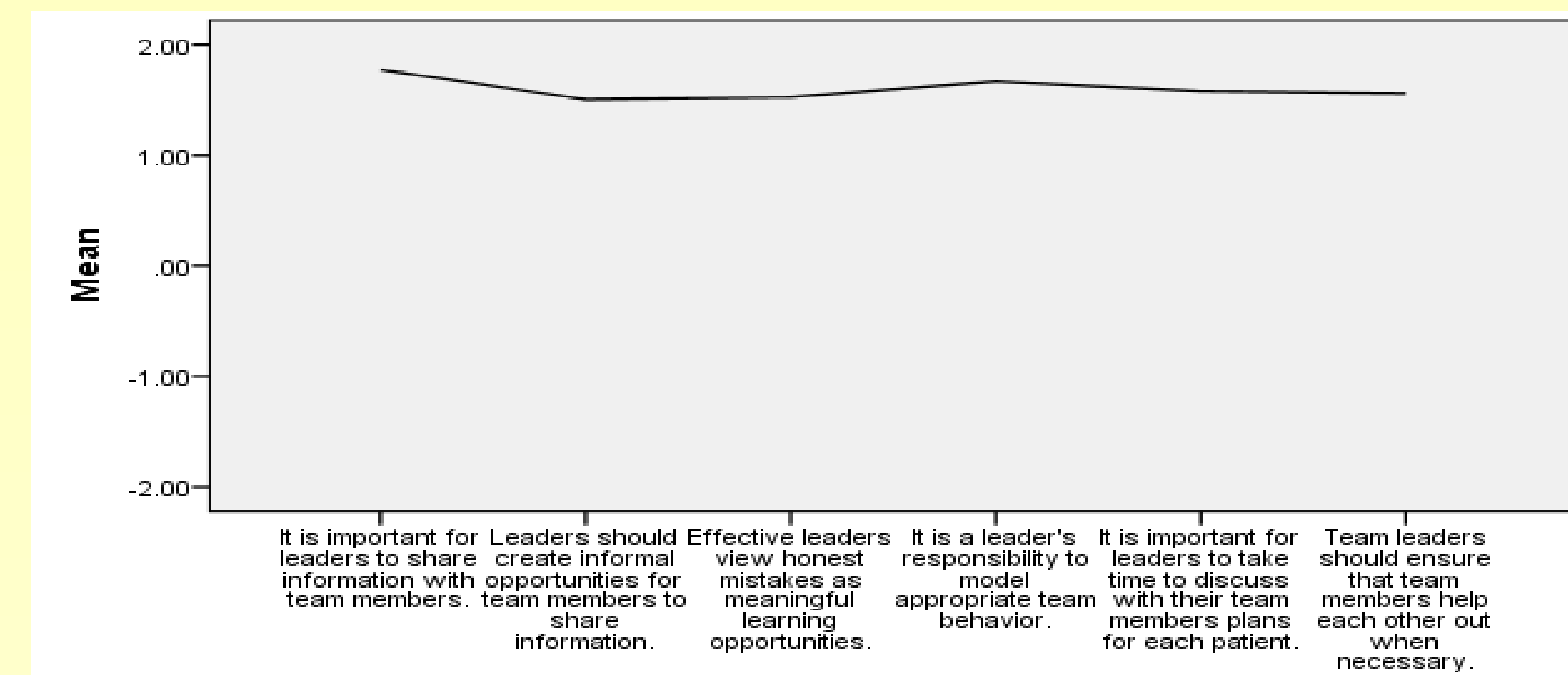
Descriptive statistics were conducted on all students (N=94) and the results revealed leadership was the strongest category ( $M=9.61, SD = 2.27$ ). This category asked six specific individual attitude questions regarding leadership and 78.7% of the students responded that they strongly agree and 20.2 % agree that *“It is important for leaders to share information with team members.”* The lowest category identified was mutual support ( $M=5.18, SD 2.37$ ) with 41.5% strongly disagree and 46.8% disagree that *“Personal conflicts between team members do not affect patient safety.”* (Note: the highest value possible is 12 and the lowest is -12).

TeamSTEPPS Teamwork Attitudes for all Students and All Categories

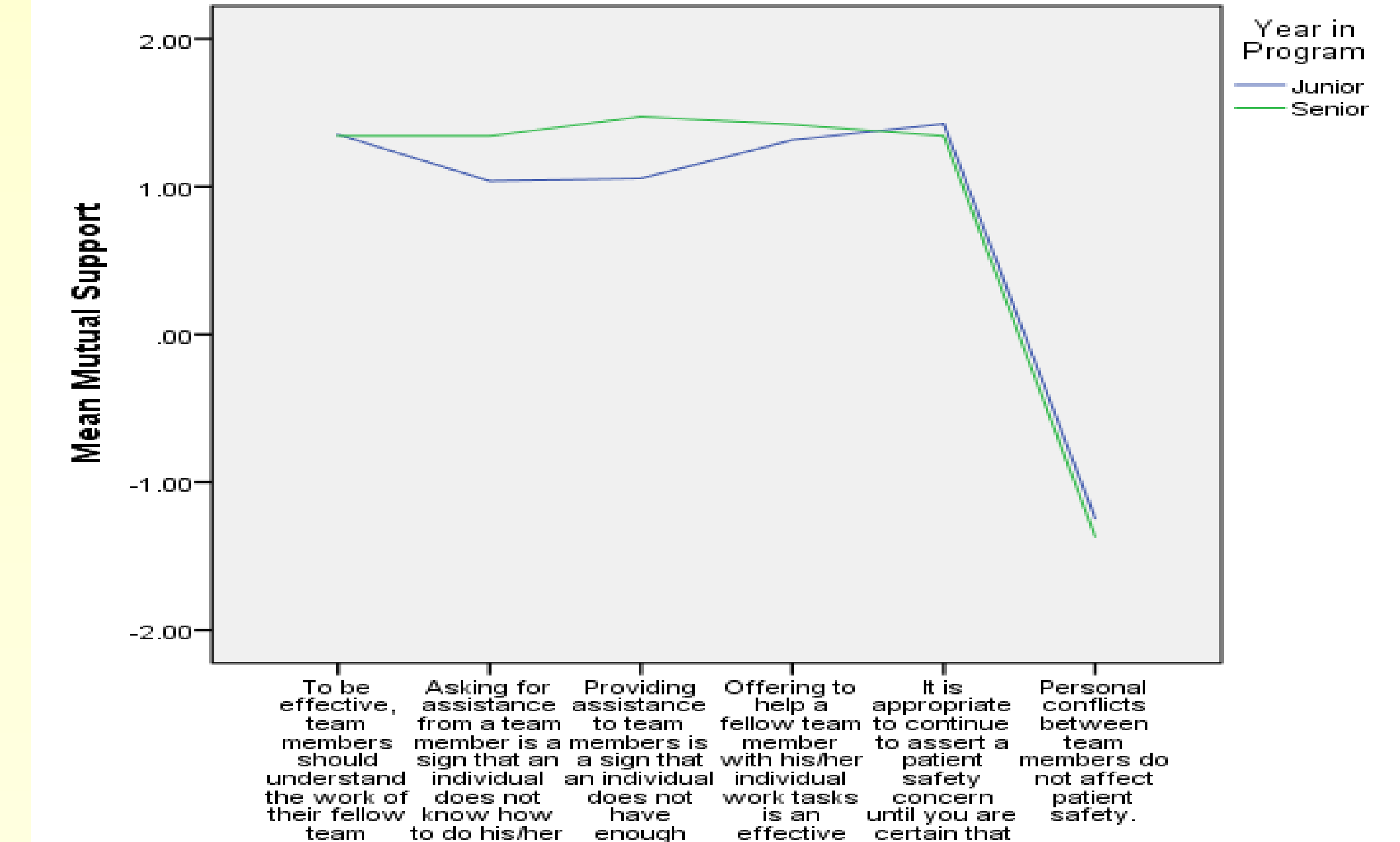


#### Results

TeamSTEPPS Teamwork Means for Each Question in Leadership Category for all Students



Mutual Support Results for Junior and Seniors



#### Conclusion

Positive attitudes of the junior and senior level nursing students towards constructs important to patient safety

The majority of students believe personal conflicts affect patient safety

Attitudes regarding communication are positive in our students; students recognized importance of communication in error prevention