

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance in Nursing



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Background



Attrition of nursing students has been described as the “Achilles heel of the nursing world” (Buchan, 2016). As the increasing number of aging and diverse individuals in society increases, access to the health care will expand and the need for more competent and diverse nurse graduates will increase. An adequate number of nursing graduates will be imperative to meet societal demands, however this is complicated by high nursing student attrition rates (Harris, Rosenberg, & O’Rourke, 2014). Attrition rates were 50% for students enrolled in baccalaureate nursing programs and 47% for students enrolled in associate degree nursing programs. High attrition rates not only have negative impacts on students and nursing programs but are also a potential loss to the nursing workforce and community.



Literature Review

A lack of consistency in admission requirements between institutions.

Most schools used a combination of quantitative academic factors such as grade point averages (GPA), pre-requisite course grades, and standardized admission examination scores.

Limited inclusion and evaluation of qualitative factors.

In all professional domains intellectual talent to achievement is well established.

Less is known about other individual differences that predict success

Statement of the Problem

In a culture of standardized testing with an exclusive focus on ability and potential nursing educators can easily become distracted from the importance of other variables that contributes to success. One such variable is grit.

Grit

Duckworth (2016) describes Grit as a combination of passion and perseverance.

Grit entails working strenuously toward challenges.

The gritty individual approaches achievement as a marathon. The advantage is stamina.

Whereas disappointment or boredom signals to others that it is time to change trajectory the gritty individual stays the course.



Implications/Future Study

If nursing programs admit students that embrace, embody, and live the art of nursing, attrition may decrease.

Identify and address factors that impact student success.

Do nursing students have grit? Is grit a predictor of success in nursing?

A descriptive, cross-sectional, study using the 8-item grit scale will be conducted with undergraduate nursing students from one university in South Florida.

References

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