



Academic Factors that Contribute to Nursing Student Persistence

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Disclosures

The presenter does not have any real or perceived conflict of interest or vested interest that relates to the subject matter of this presentation.

Background

- Rapid population growth
 - Texas 20.6% increase/3-8 million people
- Need for nurses
 - Aging
 - Increased demand
- Previous research studies
 - Gap in literature

Purpose

- Identify academic factors associated with Nursing Student Persistence and pre-program support.
- Other support
 - Institutional
 - Program

Persistence defined

Ability of nursing students to complete required course work in a pre-determined time frame.

- One year programs: 18 months
- Two year programs: 36 months

Pre-program support:

Assistance or enrichment provided to students from peers, faculty, including mentoring and tutoring, and courses designed to address academic or study deficiencies at the university level prior to admission into a nursing program

Procedure

- Tool Development: Delphi technique
 - Two rounds with content experts
 - Questions inclusion criteria
- The 14-item Academic Factors that Impact Nursing Student persistence (AFINS) survey
 - Electronically sent to 93 program leaders of pre-licensure RN program in Texas.
 - Initial email with two follow up emails were sent.

Methods

AFINS survey:

- 39 deans/directors participated
 - (41.9% response rate) with 33% completion rate (n=31).
- Descriptive statistics : Demographic data, program characteristics & program requirements
- Odds ratio with confidence intervals

Inclusion Criteria

Pre-licensure RN programs approved by the Texas Board of Nursing: (ADN, BSN, Diploma, and Master entry level). Students must be enrolled in program by spring 2011 (one year programs) and fall 2010 (two year programs).

Associations between Pre-program Support & Persistence

AFINS Survey Items

OR (90% CI)

Does your institution offer specialized development or introductory courses that teach: **test taking skills**?

.24 (.01 - .47)

Does your institution offer specialized development or introductory courses that teach: **study skills**?

2.54 (2.46 - 2.63)

Does your institution offer specialized development or introductory courses that teach: **critical thinking skills**?

1.26 (1.11 - 1.41)

Does your institution offer specialized development or introductory courses that teach: **math skills**?

2.9 (2.79 - 3.01)

Does your institution have **academic advisors**?

2.31 (2.26 - 2.36)

Conclusion

Early intervention at the pre-program level is associated with student persistence.

- Academic advisors
- Introductory courses
 - math skills,
 - study skills, and
 - critical thinking skills, they were more likely to persist and graduate at the 85% benchmark.

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Other Support

- Institutional
 - Library
 - Institutional technology
 - “Student friendly”
 - All respondents reported this support

Other support

- Program (6 items)
 - Simulation
 - Specialized nursing course that teaches:
 - Test taking skills
 - Study skills
 - Time management skills
 - Test prep sessions
 - Designated nursing faculty for nursing student persistence**

Limitations

- Small sample size
- Secondary data
- Limited to Texas schools

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