

The Impact of Collaborative Testing on Content Retention in Baccalaureate Nursing Students

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Background

- Collaborative testing is an educational method promoting communication and creativity, which are essential qualities of an effective nurse
- Collaborative testing is reported to foster peer-mediated learning, problem solving, and content retention
- Limited data exists demonstrating the effectiveness of collaborative testing on content retention



Research Questions

- Does collaborative testing improve content retention when compared to traditional exam styles?
- Are there significant differences in content retention between students who retested collaboratively compared to those who retested with notes?
- What are nursing students' perceptions of the collaborative testing process?

Theoretical Framework

For much of nursing inquiry, *pragmatist research* is relevant for application to nursing education because it emphasizes the practical, judges the usefulness of inquiry in making change, considers real life situations important in understanding the phenomena, and believes knowledge development is value-laden.

Method

- This study was conducted among junior-level baccalaureate nursing students (n = 81)
- Student exam scores, pre and post-collaborative testing data inventories, and demographic information were collected
- All students took each exam individually, retesting immediately afterwards either collaboratively or with class notes
- Each student completed one pair of exams using each method
- All students were given quizzes to measure retention
- All students were asked to describe their perception of collaborative testing.

Results

- Student collaborative retest scores were significantly higher compared to retest scores with individual notes
- Students who retested collaboratively did significantly better than on their individual test
- Students who retested with notes did **not** do significantly better than on their individual test
- Students who retested collaboratively scored significantly better on the long term retention quiz than those who retested with notes
- Students preferred collaborative testing over class notes, said collaborative testing increased confidence, improved student relationships, and helped identify and fill gaps in knowledge



Implications

- Collaborative testing could revolutionize nursing education by promoting genuine learning in nursing students
- Collaborative testing promotes critical characteristics of an effective nurse, such as communication, teamwork, and critical thinking

Limitations

- Relatively short timeframe
- Potential lack of diversity within the student sample
- Used identical content for the long term retention quiz only

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