



Facilitating Veteran Learning in BSN Education: The Faculty Perspective

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Acknowledgements

- All military service members worldwide
- Nurse faculty teaching student veterans





Background

- Increased availability of educational benefits results in more Veterans pursuing college degrees.
- Although the transition into civilian life is challenging; Veterans bring a wealth of knowledge and skills to nursing education and the RN role.
- Successful matriculation depends on learning transfer facilitated by nurse faculty.



Session Goals & Objectives

- Describe methods nurse faculty employ to facilitate learning and knowledge transfer from military service to nursing education and the RN role.
- Identify strategies to support student veterans enrolled in pre-licensure baccalaureate nursing programs.
- Discuss the implications of nurse faculty efforts to retain veterans through enhanced progression to degree completion efforts.



Purpose:

To examine faculty perceptions of facilitating veterans' transfer of learning and knowledge from their military experience to their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) education



Methods

- Descriptive, qualitative design
- IRB approval
- Data Collection:
 - Individual, semi-structured interview
- Data Analysis
 - Independent & collective thematic analysis
- Trustworthiness



Sample: ($N=12$)

Age	Average 50 years (range 33 - 62 years)
Gender	Female - 92%; Male - 8%
Ethnicity	Caucasian - 68%; Hispanic - 8%; African American - 8%; Other - 8%
Military Background	Veteran - 33%; Immediate Family in Military - 67%
Degree Program	Traditional BSN - 67%; Accelerated BSN - 50%; Veterans' Bachelor of Science in Nursing (VBSN) - 42%
Teaching Years	Average 10 years (range 2 - 24 years)
Teaching Modality	Face to Face - 75%; Online - 8%; Combined - 17%
Frequency of Teaching Veterans	Somewhat often - 33% Extremely often - 67%



Findings

- Committing to my Mission
- Facilitating a Shared Understanding Between Military Service & Nursing
 - Applying the Past to Comprehend the Present
 - Sharing the Unseen to Broaden Faculty (and Peer) Worldview
- Appreciating a New Duty
 - Serving Those Who Served
 - Championing Student Veterans in Nursing & Higher Education



Committing to my Mission

Students come from different backgrounds that are very different from our own.

We're dealing with individuals from a different culture, because veterans are indeed a culture in and amongst themselves.



Facilitating a Shared Understanding Between Military Service & Nursing

I have veteran students talk about their experiences. I use that as a teaching point that, 'So tell me about when' – and we talk about the differences in their setting as opposed to the clinic setting.

If you've got one or two veterans in the class there're going to add something to it. They are going to be able to see things that you can't see, from the civilian point of view.



Appreciating a New Duty

Just having a respect and understanding of what it is they go through that makes them so unique in our society and valuable.

Faculty sought to “*enhance the education process for veterans*” and “*figure out what to do to make certain...did we do all we could.*”



Recommendations for Supporting Student Veterans in BSN Programs

- Become familiar with military and veteran culture
- Allow student veterans to share their military experiences
- Show student veterans how their knowledge and skills may be re-purposed for their nursing career
- Create opportunities for student veterans to utilize their skills for the benefit of enhanced teaching and learning



Implications for Nursing Education

- Recognition of military knowledge and skills brought to the student role
- Faculty awareness of veteran-related support services on campus
- Designated veteran liaison in the school of nursing
- Awarding academic credit for transferable military skills

Questions

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