

## Introduction

Pre-licensure programs across the United States continue facing the dilemma of admitting qualified candidates that can persist through and meet the standards of a rigorous nursing program and pass the National Council for Licensure (NCLEX-RN) examination on first attempt.

Better preparing students to take the licensure examination will become even more imperative in 2022 to 2023 when the Next Generation (NGN) NCLEX-RN is launched with the intent to capture and increase the precision of clinical judgment, critical thinking, and problem solving in this significant testing change (NCSBN, 2019).

Grit has not been well-defined in the nursing literature, including its effect on student success in persistence and retention through rigorous nursing courses, but appears in the in psychological, military, educational, medical, and information systems literature. Related concepts in nursing literature include resilience, persistence, and hardiness. The strategy of derivation could allow the concept of grit to be pulled from other disciplines and examined in the context of nursing (Walker and Avant, 2014).

## Purpose

Critical workforce needs support the significance of understanding and sustaining nursing student success once admitted to persist to successful program completion. The purpose of this study will provide a baseline understanding of concept of grit (as identified by this researcher as passion, resilience, and tenacity) that supports student persistence and retention to graduation in the associate degree nursing population.

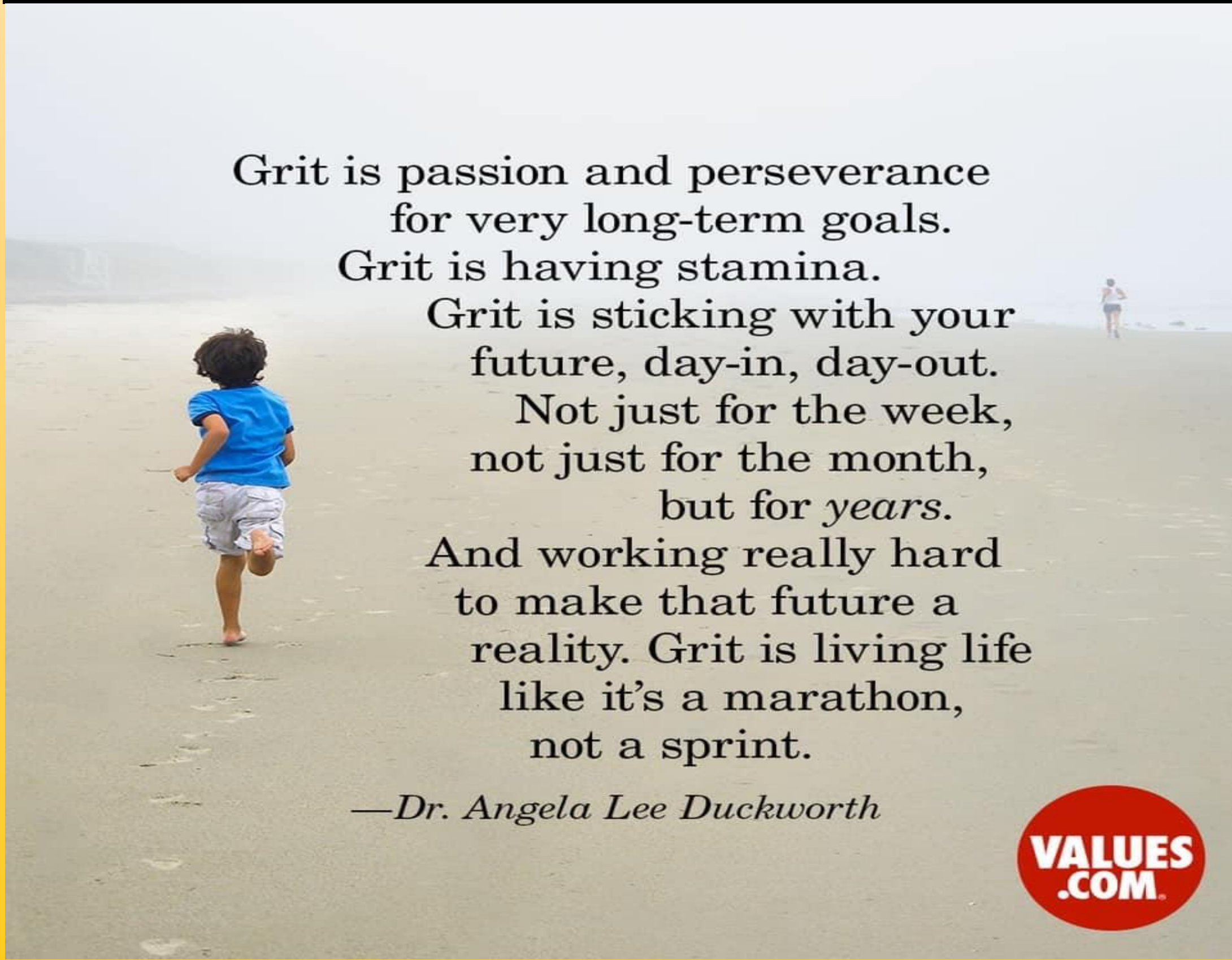
## Methods

This study will utilize a grounded theory mixed methods approach using a constructivist perspective and pragmatist approach to data collection and analysis, coding, memoing, and development of categories (Charmaz, 2014).

An explanatory, sequential two-phase design in which quantitative data collection and analysis will be initially completed using the 8-item Grit-S Scale (Duckworth and Quinn, 2009) and a resilience scale to be determined. Qualitative data collection and analysis will then be conducted using semi-structured intensive interviews and or focus groups.

Orem's Self-Care Deficit Nursing Theory (SCDNT) will be utilized to provide a theoretical perspective on a student's abilities to overcome obstacles, persist, and complete a rigorous nursing program in relation to the concept of grit.

## What is Grit?



Grit is passion and perseverance  
for very long-term goals.  
Grit is having stamina.  
Grit is sticking with your  
future, day-in, day-out.  
Not just for the week,  
not just for the month,  
but for years.  
And working really hard  
to make that future a  
reality. Grit is living life  
like it's a marathon,  
not a sprint.

—Dr. Angela Lee Duckworth



## Research Questions

- Is there a correlation between grit and resilience in persistence to completion for nursing students?
- What is the conceptual model that explains the process of grit for associate degree nursing students?

## References

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