

# EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTIONS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO IMPROVE THE PERCEPTION OF NURSING AS A FUTURE CAREER CHOICE

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## INTRODUCTION

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) (2008) predicts that by the year 2025, there will be a nursing shortage of 500,000 RNs. At the same time, demands on the nursing population will increase based on aging baby boomers requiring geriatric care. Another area of concern is the aging nursing workforce. One solution to the future nursing shortage may be to enact effective recruitment strategies for potential nursing students. The current practice of waiting until high school to begin recruitment efforts is ineffective in increasing the critical mass of students who choose nursing as a career as evidenced by the nursing shortage. However, the middle school years have been identified as prime recruitment years by the South Carolina Education and Economic Development Act. In South Carolina, the Education and Economic Development Act has mandated that Career Paths be established for middle school students; therefore, facilitating future recruitment efforts could become part of this educational intervention.

## PURPOSE

The proposed study seeks to demonstrate that interventions geared toward educating middle school students about nursing and nursing specialties can significantly improve the perception of nursing as a future career choice, thereby potentially increasing the number of students who choose nursing as a career in the future.

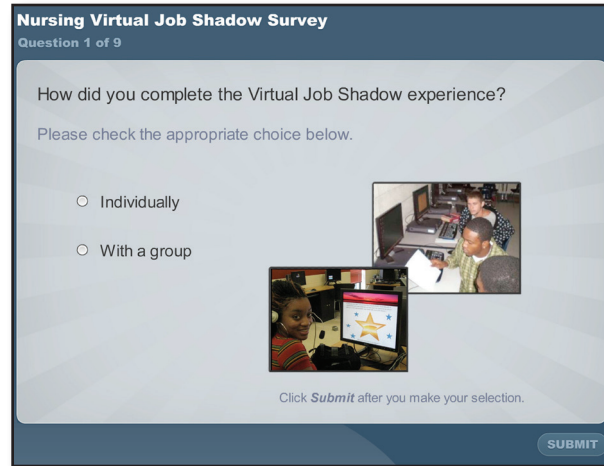
## OBJECTIVE

If educating middle school students about nursing significantly increases future nursing school enrollment and graduation rates, the nursing shortage may be positively impacted, thus positively impacting health care for society.

## METHODS

In this study we used a pre-test/post-test design to test the effects of nursing education intervention(s) in classes of middle school students randomized to either the intervention or the control group. The educational intervention(s) consisted of an interactive computer program developed by Microburst Learning; a live, brief presentation similar to a Career Day presentation given by a Doctor of Nursing Practice student; or a combination of both.

## INTERVENTIONS



## MicroCareerBursts



## DNP Student Presentation

## INSTRUMENT

### A Study to Determine the Attitudes, Values and Beliefs of the Public Towards Nursing as a Career



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**PAGE 1**

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. My name is \_\_\_\_\_

2. I am a \_\_\_\_\_ grade of school.

3. I am in the \_\_\_\_\_ grade of school.

4. My grade average is \_\_\_\_\_

5. I am \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you think you will go to college? YES NO

7. Do you have a close friend or relative who is a nurse? YES NO

8. Have you or a family member of yours been a patient in a hospital in the last year? YES NO

**FAMILY INFORMATION**

9. Highest level of education obtained by a parent or guardian in the household: \_\_\_\_\_

10. What is your family's occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is your family's income? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is your family's religion? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What language do you speak at home? \_\_\_\_\_

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**PAGE 2**

Below are 18 statements about careers. For each statement circle the answer that best describes how you feel about careers. There are no right or wrong answers.

Definitions: A career is a job that adults have throughout their lives.

When I'm an adult, it will be important to my career that I...

1. I have been a job \_\_\_\_\_

2. I use my brain a lot \_\_\_\_\_

3. I care for people \_\_\_\_\_

4. I am appreciated \_\_\_\_\_

5. I have a job \_\_\_\_\_

6. I work very hard \_\_\_\_\_

7. I make a lot of money \_\_\_\_\_

8. I do a lot of things \_\_\_\_\_

9. I work with my hands a lot \_\_\_\_\_

10. I work in a job that \_\_\_\_\_

11. I am a leader \_\_\_\_\_

12. I am very interested about my work \_\_\_\_\_

13. I make decisions for myself \_\_\_\_\_

14. I am very busy \_\_\_\_\_

15. I am very powerful \_\_\_\_\_

16. I make good grades \_\_\_\_\_

17. I have respect \_\_\_\_\_

18. I work with high technology a lot \_\_\_\_\_

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**PAGE 3**

Below are 18 statements about nurses. For each statement circle the answer that best describes how you feel about nurses.

1. Nurses will always have jobs \_\_\_\_\_

2. Nurses use their brains a lot \_\_\_\_\_

3. Nurses are caring people \_\_\_\_\_

4. Nurses are appreciated \_\_\_\_\_

5. Nurses know a lot \_\_\_\_\_

6. Nurses work very hard \_\_\_\_\_

7. Nurses make a lot of money \_\_\_\_\_

8. Nurses do a lot of things \_\_\_\_\_

9. Nurses work with their hands a lot \_\_\_\_\_

10. Nurses work in safe places \_\_\_\_\_

11. Nurses work in a job that \_\_\_\_\_

12. Nurses are leaders \_\_\_\_\_

13. Nurses are respected by others \_\_\_\_\_

14. Nurses are very busy \_\_\_\_\_

15. Nurses are very powerful \_\_\_\_\_

16. Nurses make good grades \_\_\_\_\_

17. Nurses are respected by others \_\_\_\_\_

18. Nurses always work in hospitals \_\_\_\_\_

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**PAGE 4**

Next, an example to explain how to complete the below section of questionnaire is provided. The choice of answer is as follows:

WORD: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTING: \_\_\_\_\_

RESPECTED: \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: \_\_\_\_\_

POWERFUL: \_\_\_\_\_

INDEPENDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSY: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTING: \_\_\_\_\_

NOT DOING: \_\_\_\_\_

THINKING: \_\_\_\_\_

STOP

## RESULTS

Table 1. Demographics

Variable		N = 99 Frequency (%)	
Age	11 years old	9 (9.1%)	
	12 years old	39 (39.4%)	
	13 years old	40 (40.4%)	
	14 years old	11 (11.1%)	
Gender	Male	52 (52.5%)	
	Female	47 (47.5%)	
Grade	6th grade	19 (19.2%)	
	7th grade	48 (48.5%)	
	8th grade	32 (32.3%)	
Race/Ethnicity	Black	10 (10.1%)	
	American Indian and Alaska Native	2 (2%)	
	Asian	5 (5.1%)	
	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1 (1%)	
	Biracial	11 (11.1%)	
Hispanic or Latino	4 (4%)		
	White not Hispanic	66 (66.7%)	
	What is your lunch program?		
	Free lunch	32 (32.3%)	
	Reduced lunch	11 (11.1%)	
	Full-price lunch	56 (56.6%)	

Table 2. Differences Between Ideal Career and Nursing Change from Baseline (mean, sd)

Intervention	N	Change from pre-to post in: Ideal career	Change from pre-to post in: Nursing	Difference between Ideal career and Nursing	p-value
Control	15	0.053 ± 0.337	0.123 ± 0.196	0.070 ± 0.101	0.493
MicroCareerBursts	24	0.088 ± 0.610	0.220 ± 0.729	0.131 ± 0.194	0.502
DNP	12	0.028 ± 0.217	0.142 ± 0.292	0.114 ± 0.105	0.289
MicroCareerBursts + DNP	29	0.090 ± 0.309	0.192 ± 0.431	0.102 ± 0.098	0.303

Table 3. Nursing Career Pre/Post MicroCareerBursts Intervention

	Pre survey	Post survey	difference
Nurses will always have jobs	3.54	3.71	0.17
Nurses use their brains a lot	3.92	4.29	0.37
Nurses are caring people	4.38	4.63	0.25
Nurses are appreciated	4.38	4.38	0
Nurses know a lot	4	4.29	0.29
Nurses work very hard	4.38	4.54	0.16
Nurses make a lot of money	3.5	3.79	0.29
Nurses have a college degree	4.21	4.5	0.29
Nurses work with their hands a lot	4.38	4.5	0.12
Nurses work in safe places	4.33	4.33	0
Nurses are leaders	3.67	3.96	0.29
Nurses make decisions for themselves	3.42	3.75	0.33
Nurses are very busy	4.04	4.29	0.25
Nurses are very powerful	3.38	3.83	0.45
Nurses need good grades	4.29	4.58	0.29
Nurses are respected by others	4.38	4.33	-0.05
Nurses work with high technology a lot	3.92	4.17	0.25
Anyone could be a nurse because nursing is so easy	2.08	2.13	0.05
Nurses always work in hospitals	2.63	2.96	0.33

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