Implementing Change: Social Justice as a Platform for Nursing Education

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Objectives

• Explain the importance of integrating social justice content throughout undergraduate nursing curriculum as well as the barriers to this type of curricular change

• Describe various pedagogical strategies that can be used to facilitate nursing students’ understanding and integration of social justice in their professional practice
Background

- AACN Baccalaureate Essentials
  - Five core professional nursing values – honesty, integrity, human dignity, & social justice

- Review of the Literature
  - Research in the past decade highlights the ineffective manner in which these values are integrated in undergraduate nursing curriculum
    (Calhoun & Strasser, 2005; Leners, Roehrs, & Piccone, 2006)
Our Program: Renewed Focus

- Educational Advisory Board
  - Feedback from Healthcare Partners
  - Technical competency BUT Nursing Professional Values missing

- Poverty Simulation
  - Debriefing narratives provided compelling information about students’ epiphanies regarding the constructs of social justice
Process

- Assessment
- Integrated Design
- Establish Benchmarks
- Affective Learning
- Varied Pedagogy
Assessment

• Assessment of Professional Nursing Values in the curriculum
• Integration of those concepts or “lip service”?
• Strategies being used to teach this aspect of the nursing program
Integrated Design

• Focus on integration of nursing professional values within every semester of the program (Boutain, 2005)

• Didactic/Clinical courses
  – Strategies for every setting
Affective Learning

• Literature points to affective learning as a greater potential for creating meaning of complex social issues (Neumann & Forsyth, 2008)

• Student find a “connection” when dealing with emotionally-charged issues
Pedagogical Strategies: LEAP

L – Lose the lecture

E – ENGAGE

A – Affective Learning

P – Planning & Implementation = Success
Pedagogical Strategies

- Pop Culture Blitz
- The “BUT” game
- Poverty Simulation
- High Fidelity Simulation
- Windshield Survey
- Social Justice Journey
- Injustice Reflection
- Eating Our Young
- Tell Me About......
- In the News......
The “BUT” game

BE MINDFUL ABOUT STEREOTYPES!
ONLY ONE OF THEM IS A CONVICTED FELON.
Simulation

Poverty Simulation - A Day in Their Shoes
Windshield Survey
Social Justice Reflection

Journaling with Heart
Tell Me About......
Evaluation

- Setting Individualized Program Benchmarks
  - Pre/post-test design
    - Social Justice Tool
  - Faculty feedback
  - Focus groups – Formative evaluation
  - Program evaluation – Summative evaluation
    - Professional nursing values
    - Graduate response


