Breaking Traditions: Exploring New Variables to Promote Student Success

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Presentation Outline

- Background
- Purpose of Study
- Methods
- Results
- Implications
- Future Research
Background

- Traditional academic measures for program admission
- Critical Thinking
- Emotional Intelligence
What is Emotional Intelligence?

Emotional Intelligence is defined as the ability to perceive emotions, to access and generate emotions so as to assist thought, to understand emotions and emotional knowledge, and to reflectively regulate emotions so as to promote emotional and intellectual growth.

Salovey & Mayer (1990)
Purpose

- To determine if a relationship exists between non-traditional admission criteria and student outcome measures.
Methods

- IRB approval obtained
- Convenience sample included upper division baccalaureate nursing students enrolled in their first semester
- Consenting participants  $N = 109$
Admission Criteria

Traditional Criteria
- Admission GPA
  - Overall Lower Division
  - Science

Non-Traditional Criteria
- Standardized Admission Exam
  - Critical Thinking Score
- Mayer Salovey Caruso Emotional Intelligence Test (MSCET)
Student Outcome Measures

- **Semester 1:**
  - Pathophysiology Exam Score
  - Pathophysiology GPA

- **Semester 2:**
  - Fundamentals Exam Score
  - Fundamentals GPA

- **Semester 3:**
  - Adult Health Exam Score
  - Adult Health GPA
Findings

Traditional Admission Criteria – GPA

- Overall GPA Lower Division
  - Range
  - Mean
- Science GPA
  - Range
  - Mean
Findings

Non-traditional Criteria

- Standardized Admission Exam
  - Overall
  - Critical Thinking

- MSCEIT Score
  - Overall
  - Branch
Student Outcomes

- Pathophysiology Exam Score
  - Range
  - Mean
- Pathophysiology GPA
  - Range
- Fundamentals Exam Score
  - Range
  - Mean
- Fundamentals GPA
  - Range
- Adult Health Exam Score
  - Range
  - Mean
- Adult Health GPA
  - Range
Implications

- EI, Critical Thinking & Academic variables measure different abilities
- Lack of diversity using traditional variables
  - Homogenous cohorts
- Promotes diversity in national workforce
Future Research

- Longitudinal study to examine the impact on student success and NCLEX-RN pass rates
- Multi-site study replication
- Additional Non-traditional Variables?
Questions