



ESKENAZI
HEALTH

Assessing an Academic Nursing Partnership on Acuity Adaptable Units

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WGU INDIANA

PURPOSE

- To assess a school of nursing Bachelor of Science pre-licensure program and healthcare system Partnership on Acuity Adaptable Units



BACKGROUND/SIGNIFICANCE

- The WGU-Eskenazi Health partnership began in 2012.
- Western Governors University (WGU) is an accredited, online nursing school with a competency based learning model.
- Clinical education is comprised of learning skills and patient care competencies in simulation labs followed by agency-based clinical intensives.
- The Acuity Adaptable Units at Eskenazi Health are one of the clinical sites where students are guided by expert staff nurses (Clinical Coaches) who provide coaching and clinical learning opportunities.
- Eskenazi Health is a county safety net facility with 320 inpatient beds.
- The Acuity Adaptable Units are located on three hospital floors with 144 capable beds.
- All rooms are telemetry capable, private and have patient ceiling lift equipment.

METHODS/PROCEDURES

- The Clinical Coaches and Clinical Instructor were trained by WGU and met school requirements.
- The Clinical Instructor is a Clinical Nurse Specialist at Eskenazi Health for the Acuity Adaptable Units.
- Students attend classes for three courses: CASAL I, CASAL II and Chronic Care.
- If available, the students have the same Clinical Coach and Clinical Instructor for all three clinical experiences.
- Each clinical group has 10 students.
- Students' clinical schedule is based on their Clinical Coach's work schedule.
- Students complete 60 hours of clinical for CASAL I and CASAL II, and 72 hours of clinical for Chronic Care.
- Students are evaluated by the Clinical Coach and the Clinical Instructor.
- The Clinical Instructor evaluates the students' weekly journal entry and facilitates the online post-conference.



MAJOR OUTCOMES

- A total of 5 cohorts (3 clinical intensives per cohort) were completed on the Acuity Adaptable Units at Eskenazi Health.
- Students reported satisfaction with having consistency with Clinical Coach, Clinical Instructor and clinical site and enjoyed real-life learning experiences.
- Three WGU graduates are currently employees as Registered Nurses at Eskenazi Health.

"My clinical coach made me think, use the knowledge, she forced me to get out of my comfort zone"

"The continuity across shifts allowed me to focus more on holistic care, not starting from scratch each day, but comparing yesterday's observations to today's, and trying to better understand the reasons for individual improvement or downturn."

"My coach was willing to share her expertise and not make me feel inadequate. "

CONCLUSIONS/IMPLICATIONS

- The partnership should continue to be evaluated.
- A formal evaluation process of Clinical Coaches and Clinical Instructors should be included in future evaluations.