Ethical Issues in Nursing Education: A Scoping Review of the Literature

Karen H. Morin, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN
Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Objectives

• Discuss two of the most common ethical issues studied in nursing education.
• Discuss the quality and level of evidence addressing ethical issues in nursing education.
Background

- 2015 American Nurses’ Association “Year of Ethics”
- 2015 publication of Code of Ethics with Interpretive Statements
- Initial review: Fowler & Davis (2013)
Research Question

• What ethical issues in nursing education have been addressed in the theoretical and research literature since 2013?
• What is the quality and level of evidence?
• Do any of the issues address concerns highlighted by Fowles and Davis in 2013?
Methods

• Scoping review
• Data bases: CINAHL and Medline
• Key words: “ethics”, “nursing education”, “ethical”, “dilemma”
• Quality assessed – AXIS criteria
• Level of Evidence – USPHS criteria
What is a Scoping Review?

- **Stage 1:**
  - Research questions are broad

- **Stage 2:**
  - Identify relevant studies

- **Stage 3:**
  - Study selection – involves post hoc inclusion and exclusion criteria

- **Stage 4:**
  - Charting the data

- **Stage 5:**
  - Collating, summarizing, and reporting results

- **Stage 6:**
  - Consultation (optional)
**Quality**

- **AXIS tool** *(Downes, Brennan, Williams, & Dean, 2016)*
  - Introduction
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Discussion
  - Other

**Level of Evidence**

- **ANA manual**
- **I:** One properly designed RCT
- **II-1:** Well designed CT without randomization
- **II-2:** Well designed cohort
- **II-3:** Multiple time series
- **III:** Opinion
- **MA:** Meta analysis
Findings

• Between 2000-2016: N=1,300 hits

• Narrowing 2013-2017: N = 71
  • 2013 - 8
  • 2014 - 22
  • 2015 - 16
  • 2016 - 20
  • 2017 - 5
RQ 1-Issues

**Fowler & Davis**
- Ethics of authorship
- Academic dishonesty
  - Cheating
  - Plagiarism
- Issues of prejudice
- Faculty moral formation

**Current**
- Student ethical issues in clinical settings
- Curricular design
- Unprofessional behaviors
  - Plagiarism
  - Clinical misconduct
  - Use of social media
- Educational strategies
RQ 2 - Types of Studies

- **2013**: 5 descriptive, 1 descriptive/comparative, 2 learning approaches
- **2014**: 1 feasibility, 9 theoretical, 9 descriptive, 2 systematic reviews, 2 commentary/editorial
- **2015**: 5 descriptive, 4 theoretical, 3 commentary/editorial, 2 intervention, 2 instrumentation
RQ 2 - Types of Studies Cont’d

- **2016**: 8 descriptive, 8 theoretical, 2 editorial, 1 systematic review
- **2017**: 4 descriptive, 1 narrative review
RQ 3- Address concerns of Fowler & Davis (2013)

- Faculty [perceptions]
- Students [teaching strategies]
- Faculty-student roles and interactions
- Academic and scientific integrity [dishonesty, plagiarism]
- Nursing educational administration
- Profession, society and global relations
Issues receiving limited attention in 2013?

- Issues of evaluation
- Faculty conflicts of interest
- Impaired nurse educator
- Faculty sexual misconduct
- Students who do not “fit” with the profession
thank you
References


