A Qualitative Analysis of Minority Students’ Educational Experiences
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Background
According to the AACN (2013), “African-American nursing students have the lowest graduation rate when compared to other minority groups.” The lack of minorities providing care negatively affects healthcare outcomes and accessibility. In order to increase the number of African-American nurses practicing, it is essential to gain an understanding of the conditions that lead to successes and failures. The purpose of this qualitative, phenomenological research study is to provide insight into the positive and negative experiences of African-American nursing students, and to identify appropriate interventions to increase the number of successful graduates.

Goals/Purpose
- Determine unique barriers to success of African American nursing students.
- Uncover strategies to increase the graduation rate of African American nursing students.
- Provide schools of nursing with ideas for implementing interventions to improve success of African American nursing student, increasing the number of practicing African American nurses.

Literature Review
Despite recent attempts to increase the diversity of nurses, minority nurses remain underrepresented. This may be due in part to failure to progress in nursing programs as well as low admission rates. Barriers to admission have been found to be related to poor preparation for college level work, lack of financial resources to pay for college education and lack of interest in the nursing major (AACN, 2013). After admission to university, barriers to progression have been identified: feelings of social isolation and a lack of peer bonds, stress and anxiety, financial concerns and a dearth of role models (Murray, 2016).

Proposed Cycle

Methods/Theoretical Background
- Qualitative, phenomenological research using open-ended interview questions.
- Criterion sampling of AA nursing students (self-identification).
- Confidential interviews conducted and analyzed using Colaizzi’s method (circular, iterative, progressive).
- Interviews conducted until data saturation.

Themes of Interviews
(preliminary analysis; ongoing research)

References