Transition from Military Healthcare Provider to Professional Nurse: A Qualitative Study

Introduction

- Research has identified the need to ascertain risk factors that affect military veterans’ successful transition and reintegration to civilian life and the student role (MacLean et al., 2014; Danish & Antonides, 2013).
- Little research has focused on the student veterans’ transition from military healthcare provider to professional nurse (Naphan & Elliott, 2015).

Purpose

- To explore the experiences and perspectives of a purposeful sample of student veterans enrolled in an accelerated veteran to BSN track.

Aims

- Describe the transition process from military health care provider to professional nurse from the perspective of the student veteran.
- Discover the types of resources, assets, and liabilities involved in the transition process.

Design

- Qualitative, inductive, grounded theory approach using content analysis.

Setting

- Large university with 5 geographic campuses

Data Collection

- Demographic questionnaire
- Semi-structured audiotaped interviews (1/semester for each of 3 semesters over 12 months program)
- Face-to-face
- Electronic video conference
- Researcher memo writing

Nursing Implications

- Understanding the veterans’ experiences will lay the foundation for educational strategies & interventions to promote successful learning outcomes for student veterans during the transition process.

Global Implications

- Military healthcare providers may serve as a pipeline to address the worldwide nursing shortage.
- Conceptual framework may be translated to international usage to encourage worldwide collaboration for healthcare systems & policy development affecting the nursing workforce.

References


Sample

- 6 Veteran to BSN students in VBSN Accelerated track: 2016 cohort
- 12 Veteran to BSN students in VBSN Accelerated track: 2017 cohort
- Demographics: 18 participants (7 F and 11 M)
- Marital status: 50% married, 33% single, 17% divorced
- Average age in program: 30
- Ethnicity: White 67%, Black or African American 11%, Asian 5%, Other 17%
- Military Service: Army 59%, Navy 4%, Air Force 14%, Marines 5%, National Guard 18%
- Prior Education Levels: No college 2%, Some college 10%, Earned an Associate’s Degree 15%, Earned a Bachelor’s Degree 28%, Earned a Graduate Degree 32%
- Support Systems: Family (47%), School (21%), Other (21%)

Preliminary Findings

- Support Systems:
  - Family (47%)
  - School (21%)
  - Other (21%)
  - VBSN liaison mentioned in interviews by 2017 Cohort

Support Systems:

- Family
- School
- Other

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