Student Characteristics to Assess in End of Life Education Research

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Problem:
- Student characteristics always measured in education research
- What is measured and by what means remains at the discretion of the researchers
- Consistency across educational research is lacking
- PURPOSE: Share results of a literature review identifying student characteristics to measure in palliative and end-of-life care research

Methods:
- Databases searched: Medline, EBSCOHost, ERIC, CINAHL
- Inclusion criteria:
  - Peer-reviewed
  - Written in English
  - Published in or before 2015
  - Assessed characteristics of undergraduate (associate degree and baccalaureate degree) nursing students

Key Student Characteristics
- Age
- Previous Experience Caring for Dying Persons
- Previous Experience with Death/Loss
- Previous Education on End-of-Life Care
- Religion
- Program of Enrollment (when applicable)

Conclusion
- Measurement of key variables will enhance generalizability of findings
- Optimum means to collect characteristic data unclear
- Characteristics analyzed inconsistently, resulting in unclear relationships between variables
- Specific measure needed for standardized assessment

Search Results

Frequently Assessed Student Characteristics
- Age
- Gender
- Previous experience caring for dying persons
- Previous experience with death/loss
- Previous education on end-of-life care
- Religion

Not Frequently Assessed
- Academic progression
- Previous education
- Ethnicity/race
- Program of enrollment
- Previous healthcare experience
- Place of residence