

Introduction/Background

Improving transition to practice among nursing students is a challenging endeavor. While most nursing faculty believe that students are ready for practice, only a small percentage of nurse leaders in healthcare agree.

As healthcare facilities struggle with the increased cost of training new nurses, academic units continue to educate nursing students based on traditional methods.

This creates a significant gap in competencies among new nurses that can ultimately fall on the healthcare facility to address.

Benefits of Improving Transition to Practice:

- Shortened orientation time for new nurses
- Potential to decrease financial burden on healthcare facility
- Development of innovative curriculum to meet the needs of healthcare facilities

Purpose

The purpose of this project was to create a community partnership program to facilitate the transition to practice of nursing students.

Methods

A modified Delphi Method was used for this study.

The Delphi Method is used to achieve consensus on a topic from a group of experts. The Delphi Method consists of two to four rounds of surveys to achieve consensus.

Three phases of a Delphi approach were established:

Phase 1: included assembling an advisory board of nurse leaders to represent the major healthcare facilities in the region.

Phase 2: included the initiation of a two-round Delphi study in conjunction with community partners to identify key competency gaps among new nurses.

Phase 3: will include using the information from the Delphi study to inform nursing education curriculum to better prepare nursing students for practice. This project is currently in phase two of data collection.

Data Collection

Round One: Qualitative responses to questions

Round Two: Quantitative responses to aggregated responses from round one.

Results

Data collection and analysis are ongoing for this project

Conclusions

Concepts learned and utilized as a result of the EEAI:

- How to function effectively as an administrative liaison between the College of Nursing and community partners
- Improved communication skills
- Improved interprofessional collaboration
- Efficient use of resources
- Identification of key stakeholders
- Overall improvement of partnership between Texas A&M CON and its community partners
- More efficient transition to practice for nursing students

References

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