Use of the NLN Core Competencies of Nurse Educators as a Curriculum Guide
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Abstract

Master’s of Science in Nursing Education (MSN Ed) and Post-master’s Certificate (PMC) in nursing education programs were reviewed to determine which NLN Core Competencies, used to certify nurse educators, were represented. Revision of MSN Ed and PMC curricula is indicated to improve inclusion of content in all competency areas.

Objectives

1. Describe the presence of nurse educator core competencies in current MSN Ed and PMC curricula.
2. Describe options that may increase the presence of NLN Core Competencies of Nurse Educators in MSN Ed or PMC curricula.

Methods

A descriptive design using a web scraping technique was used in the study. Program information was obtained from all accrediting bodies for graduate nursing programs in 2015. Course description data were obtained from web pages via curriculum plans, course catalogs, graduate handbooks, or other institutional web pages. Data were collected from each program website which was then collated and uploaded for further analysis.

Conclusion

Revision of MSN Ed and PMC curricula is indicated to improve inclusion of content in all NLN Core Competency areas.

Recommendations

- Program and course descriptions should be more specific including verification that the student is prepared to sit for the certification exam.
- Update websites frequently and ensure the program is correctly reflected and easy to navigate for potential students.
- Use all eight core competencies as a curricular guide to revise the MSN Ed and PMC curricula.

Accrediting Agencies and Certifying Bodies

Provide evidence-based recommendations regarding credit and practica hours required for MSN Ed and PMC programs.

- Revise the core competencies based on an updated practice analysis and provide a stronger statement encouraging use of the core competencies as a curriculum guide.

Key References
