Evaluating Undergraduate Nursing Students’ Knowledge Before and After a Palliative and End-of-Life Care Course
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Summary
Basic palliative care knowledge is important for all nurses and nursing students. Undergraduate students’ knowledge of palliative and end-of-life care concepts was measured before and after a semester-long elective palliative care course. Students were required to take the anonymous survey but not to participate in the research study.

Purpose
To determine if undergraduate nursing students increased their knowledge of palliative and end-of-life care concepts after taking a semester-long course when compared to before the course.

Methods
One group pre-test/post-test design. An online course based on the AACN CARES1 guidelines was developed to educate undergraduate nursing students on palliative and end of life care.

Analysis
Descriptive statistics for demographics, overall pre- and post-scores, and individual survey questions were computed. Paired sample t-tests were computed for pre and post overall scores and individual survey questions.

Course Modules
- Palliative and Hospice Care
- Symptoms
- End of Life Experiences and Self-Care
- Psychological, Cultural, and Spiritual Diversity in End-of-Life Care
- Effective Communication
- Ethical Considerations and Advance Care Planning
- Special Topics
  - Sexuality and LGBTQ
  - Pediatric and Perinatal
  - Homeless and Prisoners
  - Grief & Bereavement
  - The End of Life