Pathways to Progress:
Academic Support for Students in Nursing Education Programs

Holy Family University

Mary E.Wombwell EdD, RN, CNE

Contributions: Wendi Smith RN, MSN, CCRN, PhD(candidate)

Future Predictions & Questions

- Nursing Workforce needs are expected to increase 16% by 2024 (Board of Labor, 2017).

- Will Nursing Programs be ready to meet the needs of society?

- Do Academic Support Programs adequately retain and graduate students from BSN programs?

- Is there evidence to support the inclusion of Academic Support Programs for BSN programs?

Problem:
Attrition in the BSN Program

Issue:

- Students do not understand why they are not successful and loose confidence.

Approach:

- Policy permits 1 nursing course to be repeated.

- Fortify student abilities while they repeat the course.

- Develop an Academic Support Course to strengthen student achievement.

- "Teach Students How to Learn"

NURS 234 Pathways to Progress

- 3 credit course

- Take concurrently while repeating nursing course

- Guides and supports students to acquire and strengthen confidence levels, study skills, test taking skills and critical thinking.
  - Students who complete NURS 234 are assigned an Academic Coach for the remainder of the program.

NURS 234 Pathways to Progress

Course Description

- Pathways to Progress course is designed as a <u>personalized system </u>of instruction that will result in student achievement of nursing course and curricular objectives in which there is a known deficiency. Student will participate in the course the semester <u>when they repeat a nursing </u>course. Student will be permitted to continue to progress in the program after successful completion of the course.

NURS 234 Pathways to Progress

- Course Outcome Objectives
  - Demonstrate proficiency in time management regarding academics.

  - Demonstrate proficiency in reading comprehension.

  - Utilize successful test-taking strategies.

- Apply clinical reasoning appropriate to the level of progress in the program.

- Apply nursing principles and practices to simulated situations.

- Formulate a roadmap for ongoing success.

NURS 234 Pathways to Progress

- Topical Outline:
  - Study skills
  - Note taking
  - Time Management
  - Stress Management
  - Language of Healthcare
  - Reading comprehension
  - Test taking strategies
  - Critical Thinking/Problem Solving

- Medication calculation
- Custom topics: examples
  - Pharmacology
  - Gerontology
  - Adult health
  - Specialty courses (OB, PEDS)
- Simulation
  - Clinical Reasoning
- Weekly completion: practice questions
- Journal reflections

Strategies

- Multi-dimensional
  - Learning Style Inventory
  - Class discussion
  - Journal reflection
  - Practice test taking
  - Simulation experience
  - Integrate technology (OL discussions, Kahoot, concept mapping, Time Management

- Enrichment Experience
  - Self reflection
  - Pro-active
  - Mentor relationship in Academic Coaching
  - Participate in professional events
  - Peer Mentorin

Outcomes: 2015-2018

Student Enrollment NURS 234	Graduated or retained	Still enrolled in the program	Success rate	
150	124	46	82.7%	

ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES

Conclusion

- Preliminary data demonstrates that the NURS 234 course has influenced retention in the BSN program.

Recommendations

- Continue tracking retention outcomes in those students who complete NURS 234.
- Identify achievement of Nursing licensure in those students who completed NURS 234.
- Offer this course to everyone.
- Shift from remediation to enrichment.

What we learned………

Students	Faculty	Course
1st generation college	Share teaching/learning experiences	Small class size (15 seats)
Challenges: Study skills, testing, and learning. Becoming a learner	Individualize remediation Learning how to learn	Integrate discussion and practice time into the class sessions. Integrate technology into class activities
Embarrassed/shame Need to feel safe	Instill confidence Celebrate success	
Trust	Instill trust	
Journaling	Privacy	

References

- Beauvais, A.M., Stewart, J.G., Denisco, S., Beauvais, J. (2014). Factors related to academic success among nursing students: A descriptive correlational research study. *Nurse Education Today, 34*, 918-923.

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition*, Registered Nurses, on the Internet at https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm (visited *March 27, 2017*).

- Freeman, J.C. and All, A.(2017). Academic Support Programs Utilized for Nursing Students at Risk for Academic Failure: A Review of the Literature. *Nursing Education Perspectives,* 38(2), 69-74.

- Jeffreys, M. R. (2014) Student Retention and success: Optimizing outcomes through HOLISTIC COMPETENCE and proactive inclusive enrichment. *Teaching and Learning in Nursing*, (9)-164-170.