As the need for nurses increases due to healthcare reform, nursing schools must train and graduate students to avoid the long term possibility of a nursing shortage. Changes in nursing education and training can help novice nurses, defined as newly graduated with less than a year of clinical experience, to understand and mitigate error rates. The intent is to improve patient care and reduce medical errors by improving the preparation of nursing students for their role in the clinical setting by formalizing the process of skills acquisition and fostering critical thinking.

Specific Aim 1: Get a consensus as to what constitutes a list of basic and advanced nursing skills by gathering and collating information from professional nurse colleagues.

Specific Aim 2: Assess the level of understanding of junior- and senior-level nursing students of their own competence by completing the Clinical Competency Questionnaire.

Reflective and Deliberate Practice
“Builds Competence and Confidence, Because Nothing Less is Acceptable.”

The concept of deliberate practice is the process of practicing specific skills repetitively with immediate feedback resulting in improved skill performance in a controlled setting (Motola, Devine, Chung, Sullivan & Issenberg, 2013). Clinical skill acquisition requires nursing students to spend time in the simulation laboratory to practice clinical skills repetitively and receive immediate feedback from faculty.

• National Council of State Boards of Nursing’s recent survey of employers: Newly licensed nurses are perceived as inadequately prepared to enter practice. (49–53% of novice nurses are involved in errors of patient care.)
• Transforming nursing education with a focus on improving clinical competence and confidence may reduce error rates.

Leading Cause of Death in the U.S. Annually

- Medical errors are the third leading cause of death in the U.S.
- Medical errors cost $20.8 billion per year.

• Junior nursing students assessed their clinical competence as improved.

• Scores reflect increased student self-confidence.

• Senior nursing students assessed their clinical competence as improved.

• Nursing students’ clinical skills, and their perceived competence and confidence in those skills.

References