Nursing Students' Perceptions of Faculty Trustworthiness: Thematic Analysis of a Longitudinal Study

STTI 29th International Nursing Research Congress
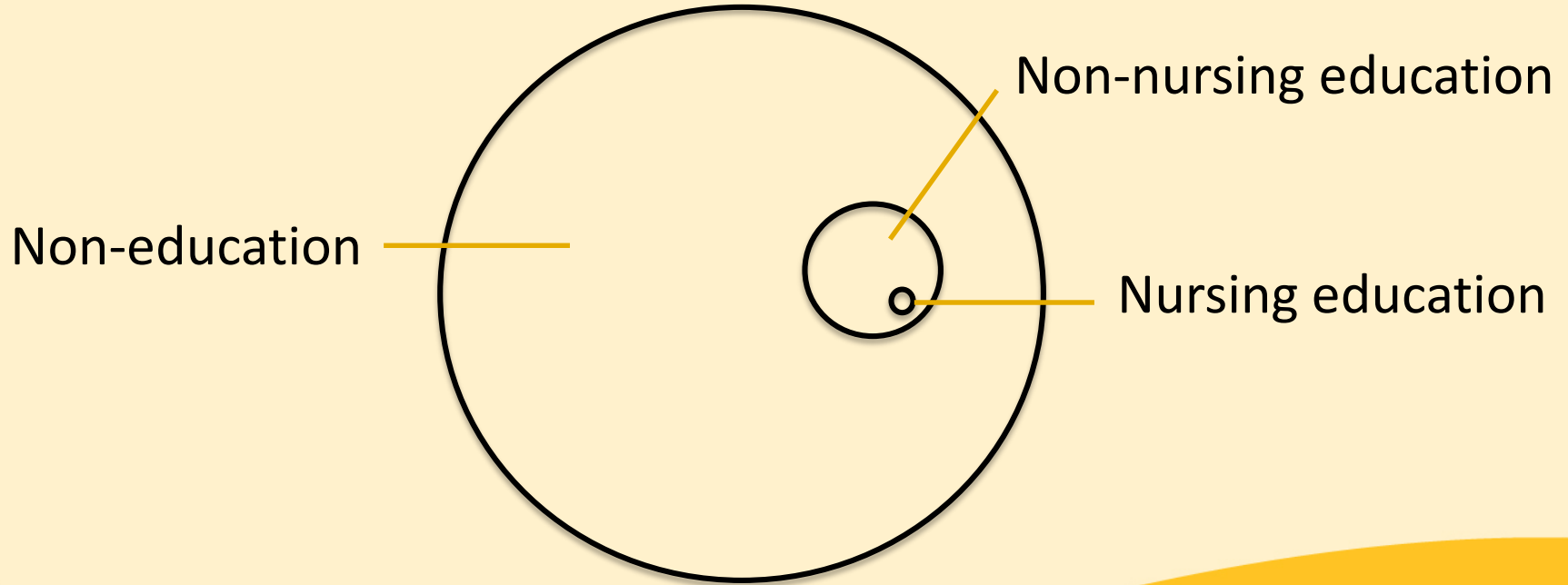## July 22, 2018

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"The relationship between educators and students is considered to be one of the most important factors in the learning outcomes of students"

 Chan et al., 2017, p. 110

Global Trust Research Literature

Why Study Nursing Faculty Trustworthiness?

To realize the benefits of nursing students' trust in faculty,

- Nursing faculty need to be perceived as trustworthy by students

Purpose of the Study

To identify characteristics and behaviors of nursing faculty that lead nursing student to trust them, in order to
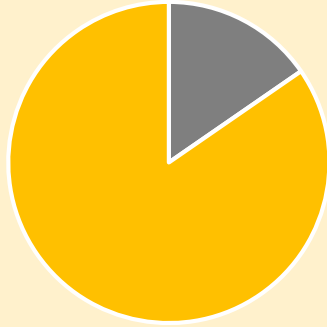
- Assist nursing faculty in developing trusting relationships with students

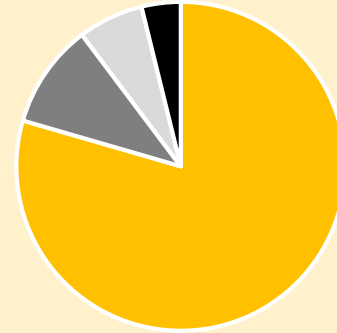- Realize the benefits that come from nursing students' trust in faculty

Methods

Setting

Participants

- Male
- Female

- Caucasian
- African Amercan
- Asian
- Hispanic

Mean age: 28 years (range: 20-42 years)

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Focus Group Data

	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
Fall 2015	Stage 1	
Spring 2016	Stage 2	Stage 1
Fall 2016	Stage 3	Stage 2
Spring 2017		Stage 3

Thematic Analysis

- Researchers independently read transcripts several times

- Specific data passages were manually underlined and assigned appropriate codes by each researcher

  - To preserve context, surrounding data for each code was left intact

- Researchers collaborated to review codes

  - Codes were sorted and collapsed to form main themes or were discarded if not relevant

Findings

Themes

- *Being Giving of Oneself*

- *Being Competent*

- *Being Ethical*

Being Giving of Oneself

- *"And the big things that make me feel like I...trust the professor is when they take a personal interest in me."*

- *"...it's like that person being a little bit vulnerable, but again showing that they're human... like now I feel like I can go and approach you easier"*

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Being Giving of Oneself, *cont.*

- *"…the professor being approachable, or at least appearing approachable to me for that relationship or trust level at all to go further. "*

Being Competent

- *"You want to be able to trust your professor in that knowing that he or she has enough knowledge that you can trust the material…"*

- *"It's obvious that they take the time to reread their lectures and go over their materials before presenting it to us in class"*

Being Ethical

- *"They might have errors, but they will acknowledge those errors."*

- *"They understand what we're going through"*

- *"I think the trust that I value the most is a person to person trust"*

Discussion

Findings vs. Perceived Trustworthiness

Study Findings

- Being Giving of Oneself

- Being Competent

- Being Ethical

Perceived Trustworthiness Elements

- Benevolence

- Ability

- Integrity

Contributions to the Literature

- Identified three main themes that lead nursing students to trust a faculty member

- Appear to align with the three main elements of perceived trustworthiness reported in the research literature

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Limitations

- Participants were recruited from one public university baccalaureate nursing program in the southeastern United States

Recommendations

- Replicate study worldwide to determine generalizability

- Conduct construct validation research

- Identify the impact of perceived faculty trustworthiness on nursing students

- Evaluate interventions designed to increase perceived faculty trustworthiness

Conclusion

Summary of Findings

- Sheds light on nursing faculty characteristics and behaviors that lead students to perceive faculty members as trustworthy

- Can provide guidance to nursing faculty on how to build a caring relationship with students built on trust

Future Research

- Replicate the study at other nursing programs throughout the world

- Conduct construct validation research to determine if the three main themes that emerged relate to the three components of perceived trustworthiness repeatedly reported in the literature

Future Research, *cont.*

- Examine the impact that perceived faculty trustworthiness has on nursing students

- Evaluate the impact of interventions designed to increase nursing students' perceptions of faculty trustworthiness

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Q & A

References

Chan, C. Y., Tong, C. W., & Henderson, S. (2017). Uncovering nursing students' views of their relationships with educators in a university context: A descriptive qualitative study. *Nurse Education Today, 49*, 110-114.