PII-17: How Cultural Issues are Reflected in a Pre-Licensure Baccalaureate Nursing Program: A Case Study

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Abstract:

Introduction: Nurses must be culturally competent to provide quality health care to an increasingly multicultural society. The purpose of this study was to explore how cultural issues are reflected in a pre-licensure baccalaureate nursing program.

Method(s): A case study method was utilized. Junior and senior year nursing students (n=111) were surveyed using two cultural competency measurement tools (The Blueprint for Integration of Cultural Competency in the Curriculum and the Transcultural Self-Efficacy Tool). Students were then invited to participate in focus groups for in-depth discussions regarding their comfort and ability to provide quality health care to culturally, ethnically, racially, and socioeconomically diverse populations. Nine students participated in three focus groups. Individual interviews with faculty were also conducted (n=18). Several School of Nursing documents were reviewed: the Student and Faculty Handbooks, the School of Nursing’s mission statement, the undergraduate curriculum, and the School of Nursing’s Race and Gender Committee minutes.

Results: Initial analysis of data indicates the presence of language around cultural education within the curriculum and official documents of the School of Nursing. Student surveys indicate an array of opinions as to how cultural issues are integrated into the undergraduate experience. Faculty interviews revealed details on specific teaching strategies, and they generally expressed concern about the need to do more. Data analysis is ongoing.

Discussion & Conclusions: Findings from this study may yield important information about how cultural issues are reflected in a pre-licensure baccalaureate nursing program. Students and faculty experiences may be enhanced by greater interaction with the diverse local community and through more innovative teaching/learning strategies, which may lead to greater students’ and faculty members’ cultural understandings.
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