

# A Comprehensive Method for Transforming Nursing Education through the Adoption of the AACN 2021 Essentials

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**Topic:** AACN Essentials

**Category:** Quality Improvement/Evidence-Based Practice Project

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## Abstract

### Background/Introduction

Kennesaw State University has developed a comprehensive method titled the Essentials' Evolution, which aims to revolutionize nursing education through the adoption of the AACN 2021 Essentials and Competency-Based Education. This method is based on the Ottawa Model for Curriculum Renewal including preparatory, active, and evaluation phases scheduled over a three-year period.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Essentials' Evolution Method is to transform nursing education through curriculum revision, mental model development, and academic structure and process refinement to adopt the AACN 2021 Essentials.

### Methods or Processes/Procedures

This method to transform nursing education involves three phases: preparatory, active, and evaluation. In the preparatory phase, faculty and administrative interest is fostered through task force and domain team development and by collecting stakeholder feedback. The preparatory phase also includes faculty development workshops, focus groups on the foundational AACN 2021 Essentials documents, a practice partners' incorporation event, and community-based curriculum mapping. During the active phase, domain teams conduct biweekly meetings to identify gaps and solutions while emphasizing collaboration towards innovation. Finalization of curriculum schemas, program and course proposals, and evaluation criteria also occur in the active phase during cross migration between domain teams. The evaluation phase implements comprehensive evaluation processes developed during the active phase that includes three years of data collection starting in Fall 2025.

### Results

The preparatory phase of the Essentials' Evolution was implemented during the 2022-2023 academic year. The active phase will start during the 2023-2024 academic year.

### Limitations

The success of the Essentials' Evolution depends on the active engagement and commitment of all faculty and administration beyond their regular workload.

### Conclusions/Implications for Practice

The Essentials' Evolution Method presents a promising approach to transform nursing education and improve patient care through the generation of "practice ready" nurses. The successful implementation of this method serves as a model for other institutions seeking to innovate and reimagine the future of nursing education.

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## Biography

Dedicated to student success and student-centered learning in teaching and learning. Research examines the physical activity and nutrition beliefs and behaviors of early adolescents using ethnography in the U.S. Southeast. Partnered in Vietnam to promote evidence-based nursing practice as a part of the Vietnam Nurses Project/Vietnam Practice Improvement Project in 2017. This work evolved into an active international partnership to develop a model of nursing curriculum revision for Vietnam and our KSU WSON curriculum. Research programs of study are framed by the intersection of global population health, anthropology, and cultural humility.

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