

# Adopting Narrative Medicine for Nursing Student Learning Activities to Advance Competency in Social Determinants of Health

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## Abstract

### Background/Introduction

Social determinants of health (SDoH) have a major impact on health outcomes and health disparities. It is recommended that nursing programs integrate SDoH into didactic and clinical courses to prepare students with competencies in SDoH and reduce health disparities. Nursing students find it particularly challenging to address the environmental aspects of SDoH.

### Purpose

The purpose of this project was to employ narrative medicine techniques to build on nursing students' understanding and advance prelicensure student competence in assessing and addressing environmental factors in SDoH.

### Methods or Processes/Procedures

An assessment of student competence in SDoH (n=65) identified students' lowest levels of confidence with environmental aspects such as climate change, and proximity to crime and violence. Two narrative medicine activities were created to bring a deeper understanding of the role of environmental factors on SDoH. The first activity targets climate change utilizing a dramatic photo of nurses in the foreground of an uncontrolled wildfire. The second activity is a parallel chart assignment fostering close reading of a case study with social and environmental barriers. Each activity is guided by a faculty lead discussion to deepen students' understanding of environmental aspects in the SDoH.

### Results

After completing the narrative medicine activities students will be given a survey using pre-post retrospective evaluation on the effectiveness of the lesson on competence with environmental barriers to SDoH.

### Limitations

Students with previous exposure to climate related disasters may be triggered by the assignment.

### Conclusions/Implications for Practice

Despite a commitment to integration of SDoH into nursing education there exists a gap in the competence of nursing students to effectively assess and address SDOH. Narrative medicine is a novel educational tool that employs arts and humanities to nurture healthcare students'

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## Biography

Dr. Carrie McDermott is the Corporate Director of Professional Nursing Practice at Emory Healthcare where she is responsible for the nursing residency programs. She is also an Assistant Professor at Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and Co-Director for the, InEmory MN Prelicensure program. Dr. McDermott's scholarship is focused on competency-based orientation, competency, and academic practice partnerships. She is evaluating an innovative preceptor model for group orientation and exploring the value of a student nurse apprenticeships on practice readiness. Dr. McDermott is the Co-lead for the 2HEAL grant to develop SDOH competency in prelicensure nursing education.

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