

Revising Nursing Curriculum with an Eye on Inclusion: DEI... Where's the A?

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Background/Introduction

As the largest workforce component of the healthcare system, nurses are inadequately prepared to provide quality care to individuals diagnosed with I/DD

Nursing curricula have not intentionally addressed the care of the I/DD, contributes to health disparities for the population

The systematic absence of this content in our nursing education has left us, as the largest sector of the healthcare workforce, unprepared to meet the needs of this population.



Purpose

The Golisano Institute for Developmental Disability Nursing (GIDDN) at St. John Fisher University answered a national call to action with the development and integration of disability-specific content throughout their nursing programs.

Virtual simulation and clinical experiences are partnered with didactic content leading to the development of knowledge, skills and competencies to care, advocate and support this special populations

Processes/Procedures

GIDDN gathered an international team of experts to develop a competency-based curriculum that included clinically situated simulations. These materials provide a comprehensive approach to care for individuals diagnosed with IDD.

Test item analysis, course and clinical evaluations, and qualitative feedback from students comprise the strategy for assessing students' knowledge competency and satisfaction with content. Faculty engage in systematic evaluation annually and provide feedback for improvement.



Conclusions/Implications for practice

Persons diagnosed with I/DD experience significant health disparities, some of which can be ameliorated by ensuring a well-trained, knowledgeable, and competent nursing workforce

Enhancing nursing education using an amalgam of high-impact learning activities specific to the care of people with IDD offers an innovative approach to addressing health disparities. Further, this work embodies an essential commitment from nursing programs to prepare nurses to provide safe, effective, and inclusive care for all persons.