THE ESSENTIALS



Advancing Curricular Transformation Through Coaching and Competency-Based Assessment Strategies

September 30, 2025 Philadelphia, PA Drexel University

- AGENDA -

Learning Outcomes:

- 1. Design assessment strategies grounded in the AACN *Essentials* that integrate formative and summative assessment methods aligned with best practice principles of CBE.
- 2. Develop experiential learning opportunities grounded in the neuroscience of learning.
- 3. Create AI-informed rubrics to assess competency across academic and clinical settings.
- 4. Demonstrate coaching strategies that support student-centered learning and progression within a CBE framework.
- 5. Implement scalable approaches to competency-based assessment in large classroom environments to ensure individualized learner progression and meaningful feedback.
- 6. Review approaches to addressing domains and competencies that need strengthening within the curriculum.

Nursing Continuing Professional Development Credits:

- The American Association of Colleges of Nursing is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.
- Participants may earn up to 5 credits for Nursing Continuing Professional Development.
- There are no relevant financial relationships for any of the planners and presenters for this activity.
- Sponsors have not been involved with the planning of content for sessions awarding contact hours.
- For sessions awarding contact hours, participants must attend in entirety and complete an evaluation after the conference. A continuing nursing education/nursing continuing professional development certificate will be provided.
- There are no known conflicts of interest concerning planners and presenters.

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast

8:00-8:30 a.m.

Welcome & Overview of the Day

Speakers: Mary Fey, PhD, RN, CHSE-A, ANEF, FAAN, Associate Director, Applied Learning for Performance and Safety, Harvard Center for Medical Simulation, Kate Morse, PhD, MSN, RN, CHSE-A, ACNP-Ret, FAAN, Assistant Dean, Simulation and Innovation Clinical Professor of Nursing, Drexel University, and Gerry Altmiller, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, ANEF, FAAN, Professor Emeritus, Director, Quality and Safety Innovation Center, The College of New Jersey

8:30-9:40 a.m.

Structure, Process, Outcome: Assessment in a CBE Curriculum

This session will open with an overview of competency-based education (CBE) and the central role of assessment within this approach. Participants will examine the essential program structures that support CBE, as well as the importance of competency-based course outcomes as the foundation for selecting and designing effective course assessments.

Speaker: Gerry Altmiller

9:40-9:55 a.m.

Break

9:55-11:20 a.m.

Learning-Focused Assessment

Assessment is more than testing and grading—it is a key driver of student growth and achievement. When designed with a supportive, developmental focus, assessment systems can serve as powerful motivators for learning. In this session, faculty will develop assessment plans that integrate both formative and summative approaches to promote the attainment of specific competencies.

Speaker: Mary Fey

11:20-12:20 p.m.

Lunch

12:20-1:45 p.m.

Formative Assessment in Classroom & Clinical Contexts

Formative assessment can take many forms throughout a nursing curriculum. Whether in the classroom, clinical setting, or simulation lab, the coaching that follows formative assessment is where meaningful learning occurs. This session will highlight the role of the faculty coach in diverse learning environments, including large classroom settings.

Speaker: Kate Morse

1:45-2:00 p.m.

Break

2:00-3:30 p.m.

Summative Assessment in Classroom & Clinical Contexts

Trustworthy summative assessments are essential to an effective CBE assessment system. This session will demonstrate strategies for strengthening targeted areas of the curriculum and explore how artificial intelligence can be leveraged to create rubrics that enhance the validity and reliability of assessments.

Speakers: Mary Fey, Kate Morse, and Gerry Altmiller

3:30-4:00 p.m.

Wrap-up, Feedback, & Take-Aways

Participants will reflect on and synthesize key insights from the day's sessions, consolidating learning and identifying actionable next steps.

Speakers: Mary Fey, Kate Morse, and Gerry Altmiller