



# Modeling Academia After Industry: Combining Business and Nursing Courses to Encourage Collaboration and Understanding

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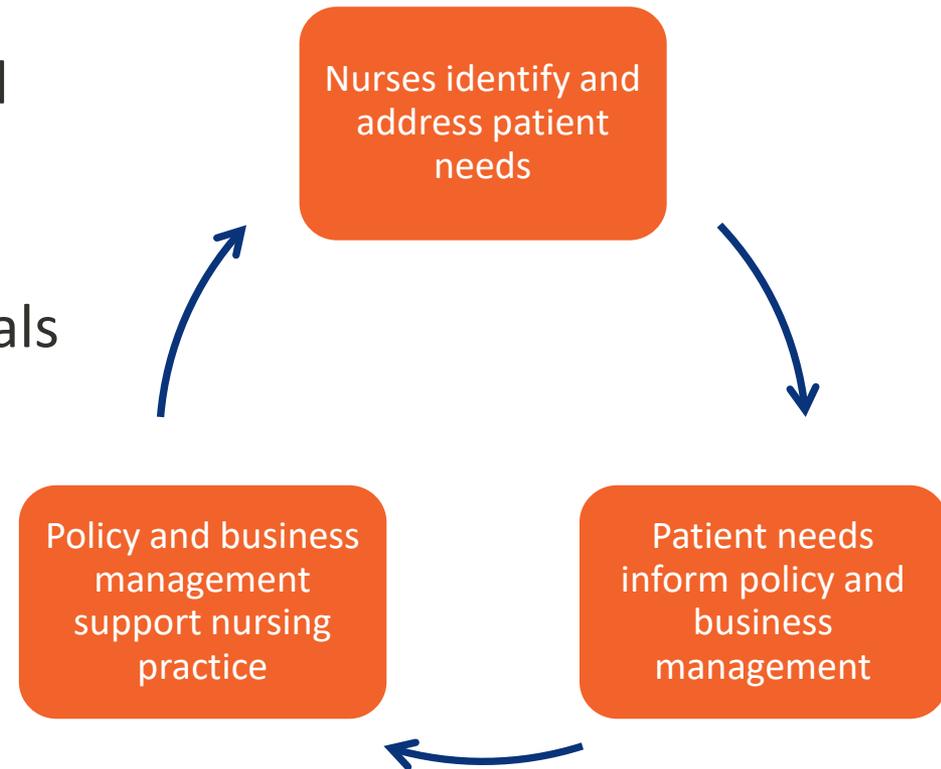
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# Nursing and Business Are Interdependent Professions

- Healthcare is one of the fastest growing industries in the United States, accounting for 18% of total job growth by 2026.
- Nurses and business professionals must collaborate to support the growing industry.





# Interdisciplinary Project Objectives

1. Promote work environment relevance through case study development/evaluation
2. Ensure both nursing and business students learn more about the business of healthcare and increase their understanding of healthcare systems
3. Promote best practices in evaluation using performance evaluation feedback
4. Explore student self-actualization benefits in the context of peer review



# Healthcare Industry



## Interprofessional Education Core Competencies

Interprofessional Education Collaborative. (2016). Core competencies for interprofessional collaborative practice: 2016 update. Retrieved from <http://hsc.unm.edu/ipe/resources/ipec-2016-core-competencies.pdf>



# Skills: Better Together

## Nurses:

- Understand day-to-day execution of nursing strategies and operations
- Have a direct impact on patient care
- Inform advocacy and policy from a patient-centered perspective
- Assess the roles and needs of healthcare in the community

## Business Professionals:

- Understand healthcare organization, vision, and strategy
- Work within industry operations and structure
- Lead project management and IT infrastructure
- Track healthcare-specific capital expenditures, operational expenses, revenue, forecasting

## Working together:

Have a positive impact on community health  
Increase patient and employee satisfaction  
Develop teamwork and shared understanding/language  
Understand pressures and limitations faced by both professions



# Workplace Challenges Within the Project

- Planning and conducting face-to-face meetings
- Communicating (email, phonecall, text, etc.)
- Normalizing common language
- Managing tight timelines and conflicting schedules
- Collaborating across worldviews and professional perspectives

# Emulating the Healthcare Workplace

- Equal sponsorship
  - Involvement from interdisciplinary instructors.
- Large work teams
  - 10 to 15 students.
- Brief assignment description
  - Teams were provided with a <500 word description of the problem.
- Short time frame
  - Over 4 weeks, teams developed a solution to the industry problem.



# Emulating the Healthcare Workplace

- Clear expectations
  - Teams were graded using a standard rubric system.
- Executive Summary
  - Teams prepared an executive presentation proposal.
- Team evaluation
  - Peer- and self-assessment.



# Assessment: Standard Rubric

- ❑ **Innovative thinking**
  - ❑ Subject knowledge is evident and clearly presented
  - ❑ All evidence supports topic, no missing or surplus material
- ❑ **Presentation Quality**
  - ❑ Appealing and creative presentation of ideas
  - ❑ Engages audience quickly
- ❑ **Collaboration**
  - ❑ Meet in person two or more times
  - ❑ Use alternative meeting platforms (e.g. voice or video call)
- ❑ **Formatting and Organization**
  - ❑ Ideas flow well, easy for the audience to understand
  - ❑ Information is clear and direct
- ❑ **Research**
  - ❑ Appropriate interpretation of empirical data
  - ❑ 5 or more scholarly sources to support team's argument

# What Did Our Students Think?

I had to step up to the plate and claim aspects of the project...for example, I did the ROI calculations and autonomously worked on that aspect of the project.

This project forced us to think outside of the box in a way I didn't always get to in school. The teachers...allowed us to be independent and creative in our solutions.

I felt that the number combination of business vs nursing students worked well.

[W]e were required to work with a group of people with differing opinions and we had to take an analytical approach to the project where there were a lot of unknowns.



# Where We're Going Next

- Adaptations based on lessons learned
  - More time in shared classrooms
    - 5 weeks fully integrated class sessions
  - Longer timeline
  - More in-class, guided work time overseen by both instructors
  - New topics that require more interdependency
    - Prior topics have allowed in-team segregation of professions
- New project topics
  - Quality indicators of healthcare
  - Social determinants of health in everyday life
  - Single vs USA payer healthcare models
  - Business of socialist healthcare in Europe
  - Overall business of health (insurance, lobbyist groups, etc.)



# Thank you for your time!

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