

INFLUENCING NURSING STUDENT ATTITUDES TOWARD OLDER ADULTS

The Impact of a Multimodal Teaching Approach

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1

Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the rationale for and importance of incorporating gerontology content into curriculum in higher education
2. Explain the connection between the amount and quality of interaction with older adults, and attitudes toward them
3. Identify activities that could be incorporated into undergraduate nursing programs that could positively influence nursing student attitudes toward the older adult population.

2

Introduction and Background

- The older adult population is growing significantly; nurses will be at the forefront of providing skilled care for this population
- Nursing students commonly rank gerontology lower in their career preferences than other specialties
- Research reveals that greater exposure to, and education about older adults, has led to increased knowledge levels and a growing interest in working with this population.

(Hsu et al., 2019; AACN, 2019; Garbarino & Lewis, 2020; Rababa et al., 2020).

Introduction and Background

- The quality of care nurses provide to older adults has been shown to be impacted by their attitudes
- Nurses with gerontology content and experience with older adults from an undergraduate nursing program perceived caring for older adults more positively than nurses who did not have this preparation
- Higher education is uniquely placed to help create a positive change in health care outcomes for older adults.

Galzignato et al., 2021; Rush et al., 2017

Methods

- **Traditional Undergraduate Nursing Students enrolled in a Gerontological Nursing Course**
 - ✓ Fall 2019
 - ✓ Fall 2020
- **Variety of Purposeful Learning Activities**
 - ✓ Lecture presentations and case studies
 - ✓ Videos with guided reflection
 - ✓ Mask-Ed™ Simulation activities
 - ✓ 8-hour clinical shift (Fall 2019 Cohort only)

5

Methods

- **Program Evaluation**
 - ✓ Kogan's Attitudes Toward Old People Scale
- **Analysis of Data**
 - ✓ Pre-Course and Post-Course

6

Results

- A total of 327 students eligible to participate
- Student participation
 - ✓ 233 students completed the Pre-Course Survey
 - ✓ 216 students completed the Post-Course Survey

Results

- 2019 Data
 - ✓ Analysis done on responses from 145 students
 - ✓ Statistically significant difference in the composite score comparing pre and post scores.
- 2020 Data
 - ✓ Analysis done on responses from 71 students
 - ✓ Statistically significant difference in the composite score comparing pre and post scores

Year	Pre-Course Mean Composite Score and CI	Post- Course Mean Composite Score and CI	Differences in Means and CI	P-Value
2019	167.2 (164.1, 170.4)	176.9 (173.3, 180.6)	9.7 (4.9, 14.5)	<.0001
2020	179.4 (174.4, 184.5)	188.1 (182.9, 193.4)	8.7 (5.6, 11.8)	<.0001

Questions with Greatest Percentage Increase among Both Cohorts

- Question #5
 - ✓ “Most old people get set in their ways and unable to change”
- Question #31
 - ✓ “Most old people are constantly complaining about the behavior of the younger generation”

Discussion

- Increased knowledge has been associated with dispelling myths and misconceptions about aging
- This study found that including multimodal pedagogical content into an undergraduate nursing course with a specific focus on gerontologic nursing care can change nursing students' attitudes toward older adults.

Garbarino & Lewis, 2020; Rababa et al., 2020

Discussion

- Experience with the older adult population is one of the major determinants of choosing to work with them after graduation
- Nursing faculty are in a unique position and have a responsibility to prepare future nurses to provide skilled and compassionate care to our older adult population.

Galzignato et al., 2020

Conclusion

- It is essential that undergraduate nursing curricula incorporate gerontological content in their programs
- By providing knowledge about and interaction with older adults, higher education institutions can positively influence nursing students' attitudes
- This can increase their desire to work with older adults and contribute to the improvement of health care outcomes for this population.

References

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Questions?

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