

Stepping into Success: A Programmatic Approach to Improving Outcomes for Underrepresented Students in Nursing

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES

The presenters indicate that they do not have any real or perceived vested interest that relate to this presentation.

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Background

- Though more than 82% of first-time undergraduate students enroll in an institution of higher learning full-time, the six-year graduation rate of 63% of students either withdraw or reduce to part-time enrollment

- Factors associated with withdrawal:
 - Unprepared prior to enrollment
 - Difficulty adjusting to the social environment
 - Financial constraints
 - Lack of guidance
 - Family demands

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Background

(continued)

- Bridge programs have been shown to increase retention to graduation rates and close social-class achievement and identity gaps

- Developed a bridge program to ease transition from high school to college in first-time students with an interest in nursing to increase enrollment and retention through academic and social preparation
 - Summer Transition to Excellence Program (STEP into Nursing)
 - Increase academic readiness
 - Introduce students to academic support programs and services
 - Create a social community among pre-nursing students to narrow performance gaps between course completion in first-and second-generation pre-nursing students

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Problem that Led to Implementation

- More than 60% undergraduate students enroll in the traditional BSN program at our institution, but less than 10% secure employment in counties in or surrounding the university

- Largest percent of students enrolled in nursing are from urban communities

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Target Population

- First-time undergraduate students, but specific to:
 - First generation

 - Minority in race/ethnicity

 - Rural residents in Alabama

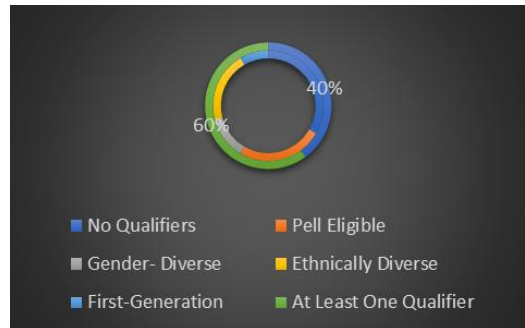
 - A gender with low representation in nursing

 - Individuals with financial need

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The Summer Bridge Program

- 13-day on-campus experience
- 28 applications received, 21 students confirmed acceptance, 20 participated



Pre-STEP Survey

- Administered at the start of the program
 - Demographic data
 - Level of confidence with activities such as:
 - Study habits
 - Note-taking
 - Time management
 - Stress management
 - Networking
 - Assessed satisfaction with high school preparation for college

Pre-STEP Survey

(continued)

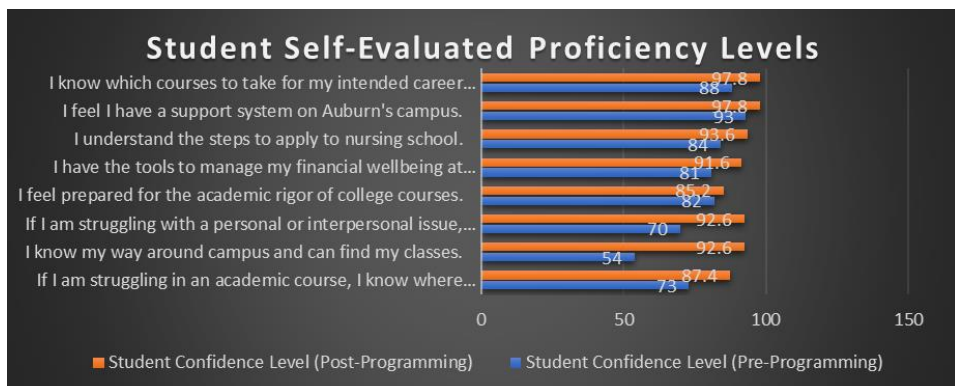
Average confidence level pre-programming:

- Note-taking: 78.2%
- Study Habits: 68.45%
- Networking: 66.95%
- Time Management: 62.85%
- Stress Management: 49.35%

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Post STEP Survey

- Reevaluated level of proficiency with academic support programs, campus related systems and community



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Helpfulness of Program

Average “helpfulness” rating post-programming:

- Skills Days: 97.47%
- CPR Certification: 87.89%
- Small Group Faculty Dinner: 86.05%
- Time Management: 72.63%
- How to Study: 70.89%
- Student Panel: 68.26%
- Note Taking: 67%
- Academic Resource Scavenger Hunt: 66.37%
- Computer Literacy/Conducting Research: 57.53%

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Qualitative Results

- Participants reported that the program provided *academic preparation* and *established a campus community in a comfortable, engaging environment* that helped *ease the transition from high school to college*.

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The Interview

• Informal process conducted at the conclusion of the 13-day on campus experience

• Quotes:

- *"An eye-opening experience to how much time and effort will be needed to succeed not only in nursing, but in college in general."*
- *"A program to help an incoming freshman meet new people and become comfortable with a new environment, as well as getting adjusted to life in college."*
- *"Helps to see all the available resources available and gives you an opportunity to prepare for college and see some of what nursing school is like."*
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- *"An awesome program that creates friends, community, and education!"*
- *"I would describe this program as informative because through these two weeks I feel better prepared when it comes to navigating around campus."*
- *"An exciting opportunity to get acquainted with resources for the fall--general and specific to nursing"*
- *"The most beneficial camp which helped me feel more comfortable attending Auburn and applying for nursing school."*
- *"This program was amazing and has taught me so many new things."*
- *"STEP is an opportunity to learn and build community."*

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Activity Results

Non-Educational, Highest Ranked Activities: Snake Bite Escape Room, Dinner w/ STEP leadership, Athletic Tour, Worship Options

Lowest Ranked: 4th of July Activities, Food Bank (counselor qualitative data suggests this activity is important regardless)

Top-rated Educational Sessions: Imposter Syndrome Session, Time Management Session

Lowest-rated Educational Sessions: Navigating AU Access, Computer Literacy and Conducting research

Rated most helpful activities by students: CPR, Skills, Faculty Small Group Dinners

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Fall Semester

- All bridge participants were required to enroll in UNIV 1150, Nursing Learning Community

- Questionnaire currently open

QUESTIONS?
