

Paper Session E1: Student and Faculty Perspectives in Nursing Education

Integration of Educational Technologies into Clinical Learning: Pilot Project

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Purpose: The purpose of this pilot study was to evaluate the effectiveness of an “on site assignment with I- Pod assisted learning”, student clinical decision-making and achievement.

Background: The advent of new technology continues to impact student learning, especially around knowledge acquisition, testing and evaluation of student achievement, and preparation for practicum experiences. The demands of clinical practice and the explosion of knowledge have created challenges and opportunities for faculty, students and the practice setting. A partnership between university and clinical practice settings led faculty and clinicians to the development of a project focusing on the integration of technology, classroom knowledge and a practicum experience to improve assignment making, evaluate knowledge and enhance student performance.

Methods: Using a focus group methodology, students in a clinical practicum experience were exposed to same day assignment making, as well as an I-Pod assistive device to access knowledge associated with a clinical assignment. A high fidelity simulated case was also used to evaluate clinical decision-making at the completion of the practice experience.

Results: After subjecting the data to content analysis, four themes emerged including: 1) Becoming independent, practicing like a real nurse; 2) Being proactive; 3) Having current knowledge at your fingertips and 4) Connecting the dots.

Conclusions: Undergraduate nursing students found participation in the project exciting and useful. They appreciated immediate access to knowledge and quickly became comfortable with the same day assignments. Faculty indicated an increased comfort with the integration of technology into the assignment making and evaluation. Continued integration of innovative clinical educational strategies into student learning can optimize faculty cost effectiveness, enhance student decision-making and improve application of knowledge in the practice setting.