

Active Learning: Theories to Practice

Using Case Studies and Simulation to Improve Clinical Reasoning and Safety in Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs

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Formative Learning Environment

Student Evaluations

QSEN Competencies

Collaboration

- » Function effectively
- » Shared decision making

Evidence-based Practice

- » Integrate evidence
- » Clinical expertise

Safety

- » Create culture of safety

Case Studies

- » Discussion of evidence based practice
- » Collaboration to solve problems
- » Apply concepts to patient care
- » Formulate plan of care

Simulation

- » Teamwork
- » Collaboration
- » Confidence
- » Culture Of Safety
- » Clinical Reasoning

Quizzes/Exams/Reflective Journals/Summative Surveys

The group work on the case studies stimulated discussion and collaborative work to arrive at solutions to the problems posed in the studies.

"We had to work together and collaborate as groups to answer the case studies. Teamwork is a huge aspect in nursing and the case studies gave us an opportunity to improve that skill."

"I would say that sometimes the case studies stimulated group conversation but sometimes didn't. I felt like we had better discussions when the entire class was involved while going over the case study. I felt as if we could feed off each others ideas."

"Critically thinking and speaking to my team members allowed me to learn from them."

"The case studies allowed us to work together and practice teamwork and problem solving skills."

"If we didn't do them in groups, I wouldn't have known where to start. Group work and talking to figure out the case study is the best way to do them."

Tell us more about the case studies and their relevance.

"The case studies directly apply what we learn in the textbook into a real-life format. It helps us think critically about what we have learned as well."

"The case studies were related to the material we were expected to know, but since we do not have a strong base of knowledge (of patho or pharm) the case studies are difficult. The best part was going over them at the end of class when we actually had time to do so."

"I found the case studies to be so much more effective this semester than in previous semesters because I felt like we are now more capable of completing them since we know more. The case studies always reflect what we have prepped on for class and the quiz. Since our exams are application based, I think it is helpful to practice our application skills with the case studies."

"The case studies gave us students a way to experience scenarios on paper, causing us to think critically. Sometimes too much information is covered and not enough time to really understand."

"They were good at applying the information and knowledge I knew and apply it to a scenario that will be a real life situations we will encounter in the nursing world."

Debriefing/Reflective Journals

Student comments 2016

"It gave me a chance to be a nurse, call a doctor, push us to make educated clinical decisions and reflect on our mistakes that overall help us learn 10 times more than our successes."

"Learning about code and rapid response teams, having the opportunity to communicate and call the physician has been very beneficial in developing a well formatted SBAR. Learning all about the protocols has developed my practice in the clinical setting."

"Two of the most important things I will take away is the importance of communication within the medical team and to double-check your high-risk medications."

"I feel a lot more comfortable in my ability to recognize patient problems related to the signs and symptoms presented and my ability to do a focused assessment and act quickly."

"It has built my confidence and given me insight on how to communicate with my team, put critical thinking skills to use, and allowed my assessment skills to improve greatly."

"My overall confidence increased in my nursing skills, improvements in prioritizing patient care and a better sense of what it means to work together as a team."

"I think the old adage that we learn from our mistakes applies in the simulation experience. I made mistakes that I would like to think I would never make again."

"Reinforcing safety precautions such as medication checks, handwashing, and patient identification helped these things to be a habit."

"I really liked how simulation pushes us to think critically and utilize our knowledge in assessing the scenario, as well as providing education to the patient and family members."