

Open Educational Resources: One Solution For Educating Pre-Licensure Nurses Regarding Their Role In Health Policy

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1) Identify 5 challenge in introducing health policy in prelicensure nursing education
- 2) Identify 3 ways open educational resources (OERS) address health policy education in prelicensure nursing students
- 3) Identify 2 challenges to using OERS

BACKGROUND

Introduction to health policy is required by The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education. Students come into the course with little experience in patient care to address the complexity of health policy and the attendant social justice and ethical considerations the topic brings. Additionally, students face rigorous academic expectations in their BSN studies. OERS provide an option for contemporaneous exposure to ethical, legal and financial considerations of policy and the impact of policy on social justice. Use of OERS also carries challenges in the classroom that must be weighed prior to curriculum decisions.

METHODS

Integrated literature review using ERIC, CINAHL & Google Scholar databases with search terms: prelicensure, nursing, health policy, curriculum, teaching strategies, engagement, commercial textbooks, open educational resources and faculty produces 247 results. 37 of these resources were determined relevant. Research articles numbered 8 and 29 were focused on providing background information, definitions and educational possibilities and benefits of OERS.

ANALYSIS

Gaps in the literature exist related to research focused on use of OERS for the instruction and assessment of undergraduate students in health policy courses. Few studies evaluate student learning outcomes or student engagement when using OERS. No study provides evidence regarding the use of OERS as a source of reflective practice in social justice considerations.

OER BENEFITS IN EDUCATION

- Reduced cost of education
- Up to date provision of access to experiences & knowledge outside the experience of individual colleges or professors
- Multimedia materials to meet various learning needs of students

CHALLENGES OF OER USE

- Lack of instruments to evaluate the quality of materials for faculty and students
- Loss of content due to issues with bandwidth, availability and permissions for use

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Quantitative and qualitative research is needed to identify the impact of OERS on nursing students and faculty
- Instruments for evaluation of OERS need to be developed based on that research

*Reference requests and questions may be sent to
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