

# Continuing to increase admissions during a pandemic: alternative approaches admitting, orienting, and introducing nursing students into the profession

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## Background

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**Goal 1:** Increase the number of ADN students admitted to the fall semester by 24 students

**The new challenges for fall 2020:**

How to orient and socialize 72 new nursing students into the profession when there is no patient contact, limited opportunity to learn and practice nursing skills, the college is operating in a remote environment and all classes are delivered online and remote.

## Objectives

Objective I: Learner will identify one strategy they can implement to orient incoming students and facilitate socialization in the program and profession of nursing in a virtual environment

Objective II: Learner will identify one student engagement strategy they will apply to teaching/learning in the virtual environment

Objective III: Learner will identify one strategy they will implement in order to orient and/or socialize new nursing students to the profession in a remote environment

## Methods

**First step:** Intensive online orientation to the nursing program

- Nursing Student Success and Retention Specialist (NSSRS) developed a virtual Nursing Student Success Workshop to meet the same goals as the in-person workshop.
- Key Elements:
  - Welcome/Ice Breaker
  - Program Overview
  - Review of the Nursing Student Handbook
  - Instructions related to COVID 19 lab practices
  - Virtual building tour with maps of building floor plan
  - Introduction to the Student Nursing Association
  - Nursing honor society students sharing success strategies in the Nursing Program
  - An overview of the ATI Resources
  - Q & A/Wrap-up session attended by faculty where questions that were posted throughout the workshop as well as impromptu questions were answered.

## Next Steps

- Faculty teaching in the first semester, Fundamentals of Nursing course, developed strategies to help students socialize into the nursing program in a remote environment
- Key Elements:
  - Welcome page, video tour of the Bb course site
  - Escape room exercise to orient to the Bb site
  - Discussion board to get to know classmates & faculty included posting of bio information/photos
  - Clinical simulation lab section on the Bb course menu included bios of staff and video tour of the lab
  - Synchronous class for theory, lab and clinical components of the course
  - Virtual meetings with individual and groups of students
  - Weekly announcements via Bb for course highlights and upcoming course and college events
  - HCC resources embedded in the Bb course
  - New remote virtual simulations and learning activities mapped to learning outcomes

## Results

**84.7% retention** rate for this cohort, 4.7% higher than our stated program goal

**Additional findings:**

Second semester clinical faculty report that some nursing skills/abilities were as good or better than in prior cohorts such as identifying abnormal findings and reporting them, medication knowledge, caring and compassion, excited and engaged in the clinical setting. Able to close the gap regarding psycho-motor skills needed in the clinical setting in about 2 weeks.

Areas of weakness that required further attention: Not as comfortable in the clinical setting including talking to patients or healthcare providers.

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