



MARYLAND ACTION COALITION

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FUTURE OF NURSING™ CAMPAIGN FOR ACTION

First Time's a Charm! Creating A Stress-Free Nursing Elective to Increase NCLEX-RN Success

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Abstract

Background: First attempt NCLEX-RN success and attaining nursing licensure is vital to sustain and grow the number of nurses in a time of identified nurse shortages. Newly graduated nursing students NCLEX-RN pass rates have decreased in Maryland and in the United States, overall dropping to 86.45% and 84.48% respectively, the lowest in recent years (MBON, 2021). Behind these numbers are graduates who successfully graduated from a nursing school and yet were not successful on their NCLEX-RN exam. These failures not only lead to personal disappointment, but they delay entry into the workforce and can have grave financial implications. As nurse educators we identify NCLEX-RN success as a priority in nursing school. In responding to the decreasing NCLEX-RN rate we look to multiple educational strategies to engage and teach students the critical nursing concepts that leads to NCLEX success and rapid entry into the workforce.

Objectives: This session will highlight the development of a new nursing elective whose focus is readiness for the NCLEX exam with a goal to increase NCLEX-RN first time pass rates.

Methods: Students self-select into the course, disclosing that they need the help to pass the exam. Course faculty will track the students NCLEX-RN attempts and status. This course follows the NCLEX-RN test plan with the four major Client Needs categories and subcategories set as the framework for our 13 Module class. The elective uses a Blackboard hybrid platform with online SoftChalk modules and 4 face-to-face meetings over the semester. SoftChalk interactive modules display content, videos, NCLEX-RN style questions and word games that quiz modular content. The face-to-face class reviews past modules with interactive class activities, games to include Jeopardy, Classroom Feud, red and green rapid-fire drills, mnemonics, prizes, and strategies that cover a comprehensive review of NCLEX-RN test plan. The class environment is fun and stress free. Testing is not high stakes, students develop their own NCLEX-RN questions, all questions are posted on Blackboard, open for review, and used for testing. Students attending the class take away winning strategies that support the review of a dense nursing curriculum. They will gain an understanding of critical concepts to tie to existing knowledge in an inviting environment.

Conclusion: This presentation will close with recommendations on how nurse educators can build a creative elective that reviews critical concepts needed to pass the NCLEX-RN and at the same time have some fun learning and teaching each other. It is now more important than ever that faculty prepare graduate nurses for their professional exam and bring them into the workforce as quickly as possible to deliver safe, competent, and empathetic care.

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*References available upon request.