Integrating HESI for Program Improvement
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ELEVATE OUTCOMES WITH HESI

Learning objectives:
• 1. State ways to improve curricula to enhance NCLEX-RN outcomes.
• 2. State ways to integrate HESI products into curricula to enhance NCLEX-RN outcomes.
• 3. State ways to evaluate student readiness for NCLEX-RN
• 4. State ways to assist student self learning throughout the BSN program.

References
• Included at the end of the presentation
• Literature supports
• Changing the teaching and learning environment
• Research lacking
• Nursing student’s approach to learning
• Benefit of innovative student centered learning environments
• Most effective use of NCLEX-RN assessment products (Carrick, 2011).

Assess

What are your programs’ predictors?
• Within course?
• Course to course?
• Progression criteria?
• Standardized tests?
• Science core?
• Overall GPA?

Students
• Diversity
• Weak in math/science
• Little exposure to standardized tests
• No exposure to “remediation”
• Reluctance to be “labeled”
• Reluctance to go to CAE or “tutors”
What are your program supports?

• Facilitators of academic success for students
• Center for Academic Enhancement
• Peer Tutors
• CONSULT grant

ROL: Measures to increase NCLEX – RN success?

• High academic standards for admission
• If you can’t change admission.. Change progression
• One course failure and repeat
• One withdraw failing and repeat
• Raise minimum passing score?
• Change how you “get them ready”
• Curriculum and teaching approaches

Diagnose:
Knowledge Deficit Students and Faculty

• NCLEX Test plan
• Clinical Practice
• QSEN
• Practice Analysis Survey
• Course detailed outline

Identify at risk students

• Test taking / Study skills
• Testing /review/blueprinting
• Use of active learning
• Case studies/Simulation
• Practice questions and tests
• NCLEX-RN readiness tests
• Make it count
• NCLEX-RN review course

Student Support

• Early identification of at-risk student
• Test anxiety counseling
• Support groups-meet weekly
• Anything we “couldn’t do”.. Put it into the new curriculum
• Weekly review classes… grant

Do faculty know..

• Current NCLEX style questions
• NCLEX blueprint
• How to review an IA
• Behaviors on the practice analysis
Plan-Implement

- 1. New Curriculum
- 2. Emergency procedures

Implementation

- HESI Comprehensive Review for the NCLEX
- HESI 2 Year Case Studies
- HESI Practice Test
- HESI Fundamentals, Pharmacology, Maternity
- HESI NCLEX-RN Comprehensive Exam
- New Curriculum: more specialty exams

Implementation strategies continued

- Assess courses: course coordinators, level coordinators
  - Detailed Course Outlines
  - Test banks
  - Active learning
  - Case studies

Testing Practices

- Faculty workshop on item writing
- Parscore/partest
- Test peer review committee
- Standardized testing practices
  - IA review with program chair

Testing practices

- 3-5 per content hour
- Application only
- 50 questions/exam-75 per final exam
- Up to 5 math per exam
- Test committee reviews
- 30% difference for different sections
- Post test item analysis review
- Blueprinting to NCLEX test plan
- And practice analysis survey
  - Additional layer: Are there activities we have not taught?
  - IV day added

**IA Review**
- .4 to .8 difficulty
- Don’t throw out questions – unless there is a problem with how the question is written, validity of the question, etc.

**Review for the NCLEX and Case Studies**
- Given to first semester juniors
- Start students practicing with questions (required in each course)
- Case studies required in each course (2-3 per course) mapped out through the curriculum

**Remediation Policies**
- Specialty exams: maternity, pharmacology, fundamentals
- Remediation for failure to achieve 77%

**Remediation**
- Programs using NCLEX predictor assessments need policies related to mandatory remediation for at risk students based on comprehensive predictors. (Hedderick 2009)

**Evolve live review**
- Given the week before classes start
- First comprehensive exam
- Weekly review classes mandatory for seniors
Weekly Review

- Lunch hour
- Application questions
- Faculty volunteer: review in their specialty areas
- Students enjoy having faculty review/mentoring
- Prizes, Food

Determining content areas for weekly review

- First week of semester, HESI RN Exit given
- Review aggregate data and determine what areas are weak
- Assign weekly practice test questions due day before review class

Policies

- Attendance at weekly review mandatory
- Completion of practice test questions weekly
- Integrated into grade for last semester courses
- Students must pass comprehensive exam
- Three attempts
- If they do not pass by second attempt, must take a nationally recognized review class live prior to third exam

Intermediate interventions

- Medical surgical course content “alignment”
- Identification of at risk students with math science prenursing GPA less than 2.75
- Weekly support class sections for test taking, study skills, and critical thinking application

End result?

- NCLEX %
- 95.6
New curriculum designed concurrently

- Integrated ideas into new curriculum
- "Support" courses
  - Introduction to Professional Nursing
  - Transition to Clinical Nursing
  - Transition to Professional Nursing
- Specialty exams

Selected References

- Hedderick, V., (2009). The Utilization of NCLEX Predictor Assessments and the effect on NCLEX success rates in Nursing Programs within the state of Pennsylvania.