

ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF NURSING STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAM: A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

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Purpose:

The purpose of this research is to:

1. Describe the mentoring activities that occur at the University of Florida Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in Fall of 2004.
2. Describe student satisfaction with the mentoring program.

Method:

The Senior Mentor Program at the University of Florida College of Nursing has been in existence for several years. There has never been any type of evaluation of this program. Therefore, this study will describe the mentoring activities that occur within the program.

All junior nursing students are assigned to a mentor group during their first semester of nursing school. Mentors were recruited from the senior nursing class and will help new students adjust to the BSN program.

Participants for this study will be recruited by convenience sample from the 140 junior students accepted into the BSN program. Each participant will be given a survey to answer various questions describing the mentoring activities that had taken place during their first semester of nursing school. Students will report their level of satisfaction on the survey. Descriptive statistics will be used to measure central tendency and describe the population in terms of means and frequency distribution.

Findings:

Study in progress.

Discussion:

With the nursing shortage steadily increasing, the demand for nurses is on the rise. Moreover, the retention of nursing students continues to be a challenge. Often times mentoring programs have been implemented to help increase student retention. Therefore, it is important to evaluate programs and implement effective interventions. By doing so, the programs and interventions would thereby eventually add to the nursing workforce.