

Laying the Foundations for EBP in Foundations
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Framework and Level

The University Of Pittsburgh School Of Nursing is committed to improving patient outcomes through evidence based practice. However, EBP is an unsettling concept for sophomore students who much prefer the comfort of concrete answers. As part of the EBP plan spanning undergraduate through PhD, the sophomores, in Foundations, lay their own foundation for EBP. Accessing the evidence is the sophomores' EBP competency in the curriculum wide structure. Effectively searching for evidence is the first step.

Activities

Students chose a search assignment based on their clinical population. Patterned after outcomes of a quality search, they are given a precise grading scheme; receiving a zero for the wrong data base, searching more than one concept at a time or not doing a subject heading search. They earn points for: mapping keywords to subject heading; exploding; not accessing subheadings; combine dissimilar concepts, limiting year but not full text; displaying abstracts etc. Googling is not an option.






Evaluation

Consistency in correcting a search is key. A detailed guide with multiple caveats was developed with the librarian to assist the instructors in uniform grading. Instructors' guide/examples below:

You can tell the student picked the subheading of nursing by the /nu [Nursing].

	Search History	Results	Display
1	Restraint, Physical/nu [Nursing]	2	 DISPLAY
 Combine Searches  Delete Searches  Save Search/Alert			

You can tell by *exp* the student “exploded.”

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	Restraint, Physical/	7418	 DISPLAY
2	<i>exp</i> Restraint, Physical/	8120	 DISPLAY
 Combine Searches  Delete Searches  Save Search/Alert			

Intended Outcomes

Undergraduate students repeat multiple searches. Given specific scoring and corrections, they learn what was done right and wrong, Effective searching is mastered by the senior year, but more importantly, quality searching is the first step in moving the sophomore student toward a confidence, an excitement in embracing the thought that there are no concrete answers, only evidence.