

Teaching and Learning Evidence-Based Practice in a Baccalaureate Nursing Research Course Based on the ACE Star Model

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Problem: Although most nurse educators embrace the concept of practicing nursing based on evidence and numerous references to evidence-based practice (EBP) appear in baccalaureate nursing curriculums, few data in the nursing education literature support the effectiveness of teaching and learning EBP.

Evidence: Data from the Institute of Medicine indicate current services lack what is scientifically known to be ‘good’ healthcare, resulting in poor health outcomes. Evidence-based practice is seen as a solution to poor health outcomes, but available data indicate a lack of EBP readiness of U.S. nurses.

Strategy: The utilization of the Academic Center for Evidence-Based Practice (ACE) *Star Model of Knowledge Transformation*® (ACE Star Model) and essential EBP competencies to teach and evaluate students’ learning of EBP.

Practice Change: A baccalaureate nursing research course was reconfigured based on the ACE Star Model. Selected essential EBP competencies were used as learning outcomes and measured in the classroom and clinical settings. The course was taught via hybrid delivery (40-50 % online) and was divided into three sections related to the first three points on the ACE Star Model, each with corresponding online application exercises. These online exercises were specifically designed to correlate with the clinical topics covered in a simultaneous medical-surgical course and clinical practicum.

Results: Students were able to demonstrate the selected essential EBP competencies in the classroom and clinical settings.

Evaluation: Student evaluation included tracking of the online application exercises and demonstration of the essential EBP competencies with a post-test and onsite visits to the clinical areas for oral interviews and examination of clinical paper work.

Recommendations: A prospective study for continued outcome evaluation after the course ends is planned. Outcome evaluation will continue through the last semester of the nursing program and conclude with follow-up and outcomes evaluation in the first year of the newly graduated nurses’ practice.