

Using a Summer Bridge Program to Improve Educational Outcomes for Historically Underrepresented Nursing Students

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Abstract:

There is a difference in academic outcomes for historically underrepresented students compared to Asian-White students in the School of Nursing-Camden.

- 93% of White-Asian nursing students completed attempted courses vs 80 % Black/Hispanic students.
- Structural inequities, including high school science preparation, may contribute to differences in outcomes
- Attrition of underrepresented nursing students results in fewer diverse nurses entering the workforce
- A Summer enrichment program between the sophomore and junior year may help improve student retention.

Primary Stakeholders:

- School of Nursing-Camden students
- Dean, School of Nursing Camden
- Nursing Success Coach
- Campus Center Student Success
- Faculty School of Nursing-Camden
- Regional Healthcare systems

Key Steps/Activities:

- Needs assessment
- Develop bridge course using existing resources
- Meet with clinical partners
- Market course
- Run course over 6 week during summer
- Evaluation

Effectiveness Measures:

- Student rating of course helpfulness
- Grades in junior fall semester compared to baseline,
- Retention of participants to graduation
- Preserved tuition revenue

Communication/Engagement:

- Communication with participants through Canvas course, synchronous online meetings
- Stakeholder communication-periodic updates through email and meetings

Proposed Timeline:

- April-May 2022: Course planning, marketing, enrollment
- End of June-July- Course implementation
- August 2022-May 2024 Evaluation

Current Status/Future Directions:

- This program will run as a pilot this summer 2022 to explore feasibility.
- Based on results and feedback from primary stakeholders, the program will be developed as a sustainable yearly program. Funding from external sources will be sought based on experience from summer pilot.