

Faculty and Student Attitudes Towards Attendance Policies in Baccalaureate Nursing Programs

Lisa A. Ruth-Sahd, RN, DEd, CEN, CCRN
Melissa Schneider RN-BC, DNP, ONC



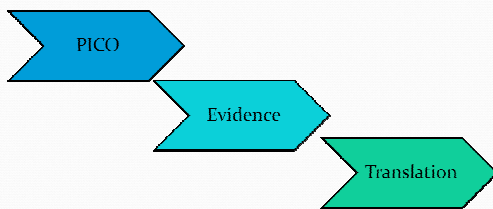
York College of Pennsylvania



Objectives

1. Define the current issues regarding attendance policies in CCNE accredited baccalaureate nursing programs across the United States.
2. Describe the EBP process used by the investigators.
3. State the EBP question.
4. Share faculty and student perspectives on attendance policies.
5. List three EBP recommendations for addressing attendance issues.

The Johns Hopkins Nursing Evidence-Based Practice Model and Guidelines



The PICO QUESTION

Person, Population, Problem

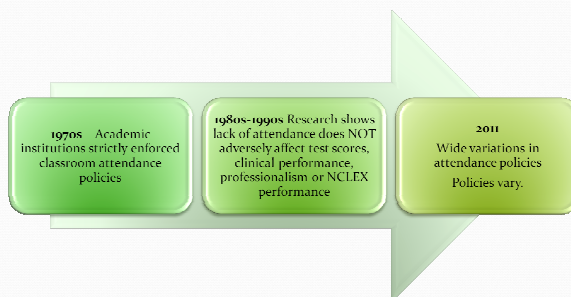
P *Students & Faculty, CCNE BS nursing programs, Inconsistent implementation of attendance policies*

I *Intervention
More structure to the attendance policy*

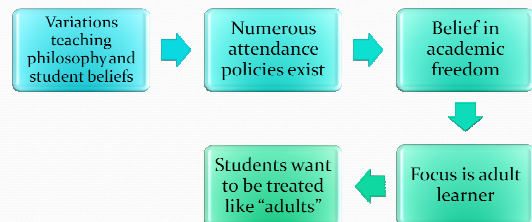
C *Comparison with another variable
Current attendance policies at CCNE BS programs*

O *Outcome
Promotes faculty autonomy along with student satisfaction and learning*

Background and Current Practice



Why do we do what we do?



Our Current Practice

James Madison University	May miss 4 classes without penalty, if more than that then points are deducted based on professor discretion
Jefferson University	May miss 2 classes without penalty, if more than that then points are deducted based on professor discretion
Messiah College	Open -Students may come and go as they please including walk in late or leave early
Thomas Jefferson University	Individual courses - some courses have penalties others do not
University of Pittsburgh	Open -Students may come and go as they please including walk in late or leave early
York College of Pennsylvania	Individual courses - some courses have penalties others do not

Definition of Open Attendance Policy

- Variable
- Students may miss as many classes as desired without consequence
- Students may come in late or leave early
- This does **not** apply to testing sessions
- This does **not** apply to clinical sessions

EBP QUESTION

Are more structured attendance policies in the best interest of the faculty and the student and more conducive to learning than our current nonstructured attendance policy?

Collecting the Evidence


Databases	Pub Med , CINAHL , Cochran , Google Scholar, reference lists, professional organizations
Key Words	Attendance policies; faculty beliefs and values; student beliefs and values
Search Parameters	English language, articles from 1995-2011
# Articles	22 articles reviewed

Levels of Evidence

Evidence Level	Number of Articles
I: Experimental	0
II: Quasi-experimental	0
III: Non-experimental/Descriptive	2
IV: Opinion of nationally recognized experts based on scientific evidence	5
V: Opinion of nationally recognized experts based on experiential evidence.	8

**22 articles reviewed. 7 articles were "C" quality and not used for recommendations.

EVIDENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Students prefer to be given the choice when attending class

Resistance to attendance policies from faculty also

Conflicting evidence - attendance policies and improved performance

Important to support 'adult' learning environment

EVIDENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Attendance policies are enforced to varying degrees CCNE accredited colleges

Practice of taking attendance is gaining new emphasis in some institutions

Students have many external commitments that interfere with class attendance

SURVEY

- Randomly selected schools from CCNE list of accredited Nursing Baccalaureate programs
- E-mails sent to 65 schools
- Return replies – 27 (42%)
- No response – 38 (58%)
- End result – 14 actually did participate in online survey (22%)



SURVEY RESULTS

STUDENT:

(591 responses)

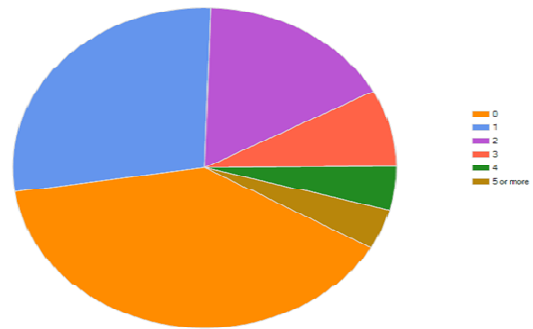
- Demographics (age, marital status, level, working, children, gender, ethnic group, GPA)
- Number of times absent
- Reasons
- Current Course has attendance policy
- Is this policy fair?
- Believe should be a policy for attendance

FACULTY:

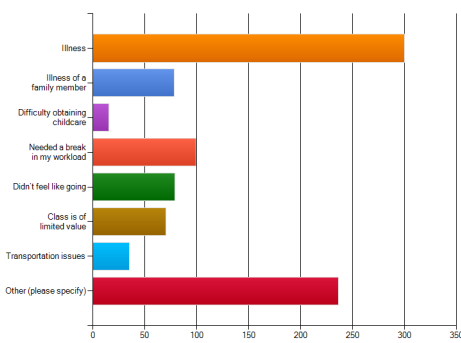
(91 responses)

- Current course has attendance policy
- Believe in attendance policies
- Believe students who do not attend class are exhibiting unprofessional behavior
- Believe students who do not attend class generally do poorer overall

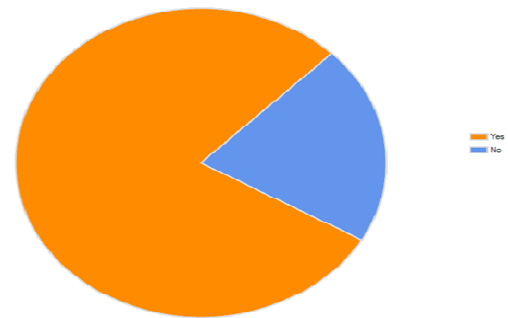
The approximate number of times I have been absent from my current nursing class.

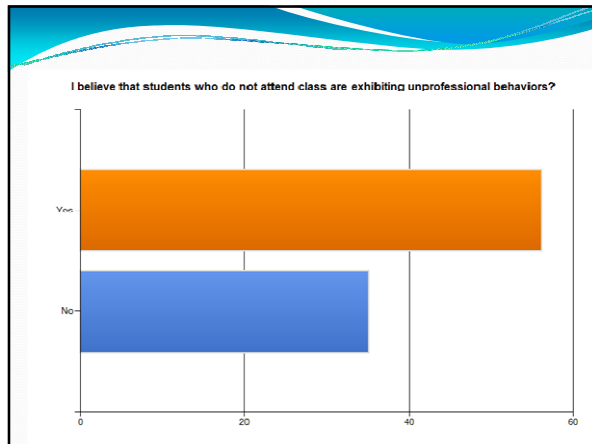


I missed my nursing class for the following reasons (please select ALL that apply):




I believe that students who do not attend class generally do poorer on exams than students who do attend class?





Applications to Practice

- Continue using a structured attendance policy allowing for two absences without penalty.
- Be understanding as to students reasons for class absence.
- Class absence does affect performance and convey this relationship to students.



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Thank You