Faculty and Student Attitudes Towards Attendance Policies in Baccalaureate Nursing Programs

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>P</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students &amp; Faculty</td>
<td>More structure to the attendance policy</td>
<td>Current attendance policies at CCNE BS programs</td>
<td>Promotes faculty autonomy along with student satisfaction and learning</td>
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Why do we do what we do?

Variations in nursing philosophy and student beliefs | Numerous attendance policies exist | Belief in academic freedom |

Students want to be treated like “adults” | Focus is adult learner |
Our Current Practice

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Databases</th>
<th>Attendance policies; faculty beliefs and values; student beliefs and values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key Words</td>
<td>English language, articles from 1995-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td># Articles</td>
<td>22 articles reviewed</td>
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Levels of Evidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence Level</th>
<th>Number of Articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I: Experimental</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II: Quasi-experimental</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III: Non-experimental/Descriptive</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV: Opinion of nationally recognized experts based on scientific evidence</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V: Opinion of nationally recognized experts based on experiential evidence</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

I missed my nursing class for the following reasons (please select ALL that apply):
- Stress
- Illness
- Problems with my bedroom
- Difficulty coping, qualidade
- Needed a break or my vacation
- Did not feel like going
- Course was too difficult
- Transportation issues
- Other (please specify)

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.

REFERENCES


REFERENCES (Con’t)


REFERENCES (Con’t)

