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Creating curriculum to create change: threading the concept of population health into the undergraduate nursing curriculum, challenges and opportunities

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The overall goal of the population health program is to improve health and wellness in patient populations. This is achieved by L understanding health outcomes and the determinants that impact these outcomes. Nurses are considered the largest body of healthcare providers in the United States which gives them a great advantage to be involved with patient care decision making. Through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the New Jersey state college could enhance the population health content throughout the Nursing curriculum. The initiative had three major components. They are faculty development, content and learning object development/implementation, and laboratory (simulation) and clinical experience development and implementation. The School of Nursing moved forward on these major components simultaneously. Faculty Development included imparting knowledge and skills upon core faculty for developing population health content and learning objects, conducting train-the-trainer style workshops with core faculty, led by a recognized leader in public health, population health, and curriculum development. Core faculty attended national meetings on population health and brought the knowledge back to the department by leading faculty development meetings with their colleagues on population health content development. The second part of implementation includes content and learning object development/implementation. The core faculty evaluated their specific courses and content to revise content to include population health competencies. The school established faculty course work groups and included the interprofessional practice partners on curriculum revision. The School of Nursing developed two additional courses that are now offered as electives for the Nursing students, such as Nursing and Global Health and Health Informatics. The third theme focused on Laboratory (Simulation) and Clinical Experience Development and Implementation. The community clinical experience was enriched with health promotion activities. Nursing students had to research existing data on the communities and populations of interest at partner clinical sites, develop a list of community assets and resources available to the populations of interest, design health programs to meet identified needs, determine the data to be collected from each participant, conduct population health screening and health education events based in needs assessment, create a de-identified database for the population of interest, evaluate findings and disseminate findings to their class and the agency of interest.

Biography

Katie Hooven has completed her graduation from West Chester University with her Bachelor's in Nursing (BSN), graduating with her Master's in Business Administration (MBA) with a focus in finance, and her Master's in Nursing (MSN) with a focus on Nursing Administration. She has graduated from Villanova University with her PhD with a focus on Nursing Education. Her dissertation included tool development on collaboration in the clinical learning environment, along with a mixed methods national survey on clinical education. She has been a Nurse for over 10 years and has worked in Critical Care, Operating Room, Endoscopy, and short procedure with pediatrics patients to adult patients. She is currently at TCNJ and has received \$450,000 grant as a Project Director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on her work with population health. She has also been a Co-Investigator for a \$100,000 grant from Novo-Nordisk focusing on obesity in schools.

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