Preliminary Results of Using a Student Success Facilitator in an Accelerated Baccalaureate Nursing Program

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Background and Significance
Competing demands of work, family, friends, and the academic rigor while in an accelerated baccalaureate nursing program often lead to high levels of anxiety and may contribute to unsuccessful student progression. This phenomena is not unique to the UNLV School of Nursing but is an issue that nursing programs grapple with nationwide. While there is nursing research literature related to student success programs there are limited studies that describe the use of a Student Success Facilitator (SSF) coupled with a Student to Student Mentoring Program (SSMP).

Methods
This study uses a descriptive design and provides only preliminary data and information on the intervention to enhance student success. Data gathered from first semester nursing students in Summer 2012 and Fall 2012 includes:
1. # of referrals from faculty to the SSF
2. # of 1 on 1 sessions with students by the SSF
3. # of group sessions by the SSF
4. # of students that use a mentor and for how long
5. Student satisfaction with the mentoring process

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Pretest</th>
<th>Posttest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>44.18</td>
<td>43.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worry</td>
<td>15.52</td>
<td>15.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotionality</td>
<td>19.11</td>
<td>18.19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Discussion
- Both mentors and mentees exhibited a high degree of satisfaction with the Student to Student Mentoring Program (SSMP) and the performance of the SSF.
- However, mentor and mentee ratings on the mentoring component, that is perceptions of the effectiveness of the mentoring component of the program, were relatively lower, although it was still above the mid-range.
- Overall, both mentors and mentees reported high satisfaction range for all three aspects—SSMP, performance of the SSF, and evaluation of the mentoring components.
- The TAI, with the exception of the Worry subscale, reflected that all student ratings were lower at posttest than pretest. There is some indication that the SSMP and the SSF helped students to decrease their emotionality and their overall test anxiety, however it is too early to reach a definitive conclusion until the study is completed.
- Future plans are to continue this study for 4 complete semesters and at that time analyze data including NCLEX pass rates and SON retention rates.