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Predictors of NCLEX-RN success of associate degree graduates: A correlational study

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Purpose: Examine the variables that predict first-time pass rates of the NCLEX-RN in ADN students. This would assist schools of nursing in formulating relevant admission criteria, intervening with students at risk of, and providing needed academic support to increase the likelihood of passing the NCLEX-RN.

Background/Significance: Enrich the literature on variables that predict first-time NCLEX-RN success. Among ADN students, what is the relationship between academic variables (cumulative GPA, TEAS test score, ATI test score, and final course grade for the last medical-surgical course) and successful first-time passing of the NCLEX-RN? H: ADN students who achieve high cumulative GPA (≥ 3.0), TEAS, ATI test scores and final course grade for the last med-surg course ($\geq 80\%$) will pass the NCLEX-RN on their first attempt.

Methods: The purpose of this retrospective quantitative study was to identify the relationship of preadmission and nursing program variables on first-time NCLEX-RN success for graduates of an ADN program at a university located in the southeastern region in the United States. Retrospective non-experimental correlational study using preexisting quantitative data from the school of nursing was used. A convenience sample of previously collected academic data for 1,576 graduates between January, 2005 and December 2011 was included, which was then analyzed using Pearson Chi-Square and Cramer's V statistical testing.

Results: There were statistically significant findings that Cumulative GPA, TEAS Average score, TEAS English score, TEAS Reading score, ATI Comprehensive Predictor exam, and the final course grade for the last medical-surgical nursing course are predictive of first-time NCLEX-RN success. Chi-Square test and Cramer's V was used to examine the data. Chi-Square test used to test the null hypothesis. In this model, the dependent variable was NCLEX-RN result (pass or fail). The independent variables were cumulative GPA, TEAS test score, ATI test score, and final course grade for last medical-surgical nursing course. Analyzed by mean, median, & SD.

Conclusions: Constant assessment of course grades, GPA, & performance on standardized tests is essential. Schools of nursing should have ongoing assessment of student's GPA & student support services be in place to assist students admitted to the nursing program with low TEAS average, English, & reading scores.

Biography

Bonny Kehm has taught online at the university level for over 12 years and has taught and developed LPN to RN; RN to BSN, MSN and DNP courses. She began her nursing career in 1996. Her clinical expertise includes neonatal intensive care, pediatrics and oncology. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, ANA, NLN, and Missouri Organization of Nurse Leaders. She gives seminars and presentations on various educational topics for nurses, physicians, marketing groups and professional societies. She has received several awards for teaching excellence.

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