



Curriculum Development: Incorporating the CNL Certification Exam

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USF CNL Programs

- 258 students enrolled
- 4 programs
 - Model A-BSN to MSN/CNL
 - Model C-Entry level to MSN/CNL
 - Model D-ADN to MSN/CNL
 - Model E-Post-Master's Certificate
- Graduated over 200 CNL prepared nurses



CNL Certification Philosophy

- Elevates the CNL role to the level of other Master prepared roles
- Demonstrates a metric sign of excellence
- Quality Program Indicator
- Increases CNL Role Identification
- Acts to “Brand” the Role in the Student’s Mind



USF Policies

- All faculty teaching in CNL program take the CNL exam.
 - Commitment to understanding the role from the inside
 - Paid by University Faculty Development Funds
- DNP program requires each student to obtain a certification in order to graduate
 - Many DNP students (8) obtain the CNL certification and teach in the CNL program.



CNL Curriculum

- Six semesters-all programs
- Three 1 unit CNL role courses
 - 100 hours of role implementation
 - 300 hours for immersion
 - Taught by CNL certified faculty
 - Focus strictly on implementing the CNL role
- Major curriculum changes in 2009



CNL Exam Implementation

- 30% of graduates took the exam 2006-2009
 - After graduation from program and before NCLEX exam
 - Pass rate below 60%
 - 25% of admits know of CNL certification
- Changed Policy 2009



Current CNL Exam Policy

- All students sit for the exam
 - Required in Role Course last semester
 - Exam is only student cost for semester
 - First time required the exam offered scholarships
 - Inform students before enrollment in program
- Take Before the NCLEX exam
- Annually-130 students taking the exam
- Pass rate 65%



Promoting the CNL Exam

- Offer 3 exams per year
- A personal reminder is sent to all alumni
- Maintain personal email accounts
- LinkedIN for CNL alumni



CNL Exam Preparation

- AACN resources
- CNL Exam Preparation Workshop
 - Faculty experts
 - Reviewed key concepts
 - Reviewed simulation mechanics
 - Time intensive
 - Low turn out



2010 CNL Exam Review

- Developed and posted all material on Wiki
 - Students can review at home
 - Multiple faculty can post
 - Videos and PowerPoint
 - Link to all AACN resources



Curriculum Development

- CNL Exam report
 - Early years able to identify holes in content
 - Revised curriculum in 2009
 - Increased informatics
 - Strengthened CNL role courses
 - Longevity of programs making harder to make curriculum changes
 - Unable to obtain individual scores



Lessons Learned

- Hire DNP Faculty
- Certify Faculty
- Admission Criteria
- Increase Multiple Choice Exams
- Increase Computerized Exam
- Incorporate Test-taking Skills
- Improvement in Exam Result Reporting
- Stress CNL Role/Certification Early in Program

CNL Certification



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Questions & Answers

Please complete the program evaluation.



Thank you for your participation.