

Case Study

Helping Students Achieve First-Time NCLEX Success

Marilyn Miller, MSN, BSN

St. Charles Community College

Nursing of Adults and Children IV | Spring 2011

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- All students took the NCLEX and passed. They did not take a review course but instead used the textbook and prepU to review.

Course

During the spring 2011 semester, I held a preceptorship with 12 students. I embarked on a trial of prepU part-way through the semester. The preceptorship involves students working directly with a RN in the community hospital to apply the knowledge and skills acquired through the nursing program. During this rotation, the student is preparing for the HESI and the ATI tests that are a part of the course grade. With the knowledge from these tests the student can prepare for the NCLEX exam. I incorporated the Lippincott review book along with the online testing to help the student with these exams. This was an optional part of the preceptorship. About 7 students of the 12 used the tool to help in their preparation.

Course Grading Policies and Assessment

Course grades are made up of:

- Classroom: tests, quizzes, case study & class presentation
- Clinical (satisfactory or non-satisfactory) & preparation for simulation
- ATI
- HESI

Students need to get at least 723 points out of a total of 928 to pass the course.

prepU Implementation

The 12 students in this course only had access to prepU for five weeks, but I encouraged them to get as much out of the program as they could during that time. Out of the 12 students in the course, 7 of them took advantage of the free trial in prepU and the other 5 did not. I had some struggling students and I told them to take 10 questions a day and a



couple of them did do some tests more than once. I found that the students who weren't doing as well were likely to take more quizzes.

Table 1

Usage Data from Nursing 254 (Preceptorship), Spring 2011	
Number of Students	7
Students who've taken a quiz:	7 (100%)
Quizzes taken:	382
Average number of quizzes: (among those who've taken quizzes)	54.6
Questions answered:	4,746
Average number of questions: (among those who've taken quizzes)	678
Class Overall Mastery Level	

Table 2: Course Grades and prepU Usage

# Logins	Quizzes	Questions Answered	Mastery Level	Final Exam	ATI	HESI	Total points/928	Final Grade
6	47	470	3.4	116	47	40	792	C
34	68	680	2.9	106	49	48	790	C
13	39	410	3.8	118	47	42	725	C
40	94	1290	5.7	120	48	43	752	C
1	1	6	n/a	112	46	35	766	C
22	49	556	3.4	118	49	41	762	C
29	84	1334	5.8	112	47	43	766	C

Findings

I had three or four students who were barely making it through the class—two of them I really didn't think would pass. One of the students I didn't think was going to pass ended up taking 1,290 questions in prepU and ended up with a C in the class.

All of these students in this course took the NCLEX in the summer and passed. They did not take a review course but instead used the textbook and prepU to review and I think this helped them pass the boards.

Conclusions and Future Use

Based on this initial experience, we decided to continue with the same book and to use prepU in the fall 2011.

