NCLEX SUCCESS

LIPPINCOTT FOR LIFE

Case Study

Students Learning At Their Own Pace

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- **Students liked that prepU helped prepare them with NCLEX-style questions.**
- **Students who used prepU achieved better course outcomes than those who did not.**
- **Students had the benefit of learning at their own pace.**

Course

Foundations of Nursing Practice (N210) is a fundamentals course with 48 students each semester. The course is focused around mastery and application of nursing concepts, health care delivery, and the nursing process. I have been teaching the course at Lakeview College of Nursing for five years.

Course Grading Policies and Assessment

Course grades are made up of:

- five exams (10% each)
- final exam (20%)
- clinical paperwork, care plans, papers (20%).

Students have two lectures per week (3 hours each) and a 2-hour lab session. Additionally, I assign my students 15 questions each week based on their assigned reading.

prepU Implementation

We were class-testing prepU during the spring and so I made usage of prepU voluntary, although I did assign credit for student usage. I set the mastery level at 3 to begin with and required students to reach at least level 5 by the end of the term.

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I decided to use prepU because of:

- the NCLEX style questions
- the mastery level idea
- group and individual feedback as students progress through
- the ability to individualize quizzes
- the vast array of questions available.

I feel as if prepU helps students prepare for their exams and helps me get a sense of what students are learning and allows me to adjust my teaching and better address student difficulties and misconceptions. If I could see students had mastered certain topics then I knew I didn't need to spend any more time on it. If there were misconceptions, I did my best to clarify them.

Students in my course struggle with applying the concepts they have learned in an NCLEX-style format. They also have a hard time with the medical math and also the administration pharmacology.

I have loved using prepU to access and review my students' data to get a picture of where they are having the most difficulties. I had done this a little before with ATI, but now I am only looking at data in prepU. I accessed the data every other week to see where students were.

I think that a tool like prepU helps encourage and motivate students to engage with the material in a more interactive way rather than reading a book when they're tired.

Findings

I allowed students to decide for themselves if they wanted to use prepU during the spring semester and I gave minimal points for using it as I was waiting to see how students liked it. Those students who used prepU said that it helped them as it had NCLEX-style questions.

And those who used it were the students who ended up getting As or Bs in my course.

I think that the adaptive quizzing nature of prepU better prepares students for the NCLEX than more standard questioning. And I think that using prepU better helped my students prepare for their exams and also increased their mastery of the course concepts.

Conclusions and Future Use

For the fall semester, I am going to be assigning quizzes and will ask students to go into each chapter to answer 5-10 questions on the material so I can see how well they are getting the information from the readings that I am not lecturing on.

The two big benefits I see of prepU that I would pass on to a future faculty member thinking about using prepU are that it gives you great information on the students' mastery of the course materials and provides the benefit of each student being able to learn at their own pace.

And one final, unexpected outcome was how simple it was for me to master using prepU! I haven't managed to learn a new technology more quickly, or effectively than I did prepU.

Table 1

Usage Data from N210 Foundations, Spring 2011	
Number of students who logged in to prepU:	14
Students who've taken a quiz:	13 (93%)
Quizzes taken:	1,194
Average number of quizzes (among those who've taken quizzes):	91.8
Questions answered:	11,548
Average number of questions (among those who've taken quizzes)	888
Class Overall Mastery Level	5.9