Utilizing the ATI TEAS Assessment as a Predictor of Nursing Program and NCLEX Success

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Abstract

The shortage of qualified, competent registered nurses (RNs) in the United States continues to be a problem, and it will continue to get worse. It is predicted that the RN workforce is expected to grow by 7% between now and 2029 as current RNs reach retirement age and others leave the profession. Community colleges play an important role in helping to solve this problem as they admit more nursing students than their four-year university counterparts. Although community colleges have large applicant pools, their capacity to admit students is often limited to a set number. The limited capacity of seats in nursing programs makes any failure of a student even more problematic as another potential nurse is lost, and the demand for nurses is still growing. NCLEX-RN licensure first-time pass rates for community colleges have also trended downward. Therefore, it is essential that schools of nursing create admission policies that will assist with the selection of the most qualified students for admission. During a pilot study of administering the Assessment Technologies Institute Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS) assessment to admitted cohorts of students to the Certificate of Proficiency in Practical Nursing (CPN) program at Wor-Wic Community College, students were tracked as they progressed or failed to progress through the CPN program. Students' progression through the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program was also tracked to assess if there is a relationship between their scores on the ATI TEAS assessment and success in both nursing programs. TEAS assessment scores of students from the beginning of their nursing education were also addressed by assessing for a correlation between TEAS scores and first-time NCLEX-RN pass rates of Wor-Wic Community College ADN graduates. Overall, the ATI TEAS assessment does statistically show a strong correlation for predicting nursing student success for the Wor-Wic Community College nursing program.