

Summer Institute in Nursing Informatics 2019 Poster Presentation

Integrating Informatics Content in Nursing Education

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In order to provide quality care today, nurses need informatics competencies including the ability to use technology to document and assess care, gather and analyze data, trend patient outcomes across visits, anticipate general patient needs for preventative care, participate in telemedicine and methods to help patients engage in their own care. Both the National League for Nurses (NLN) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recognize the need to prepare a workforce that demonstrates informatics competencies. The NLN vision focuses on the need to reframe how nursing students are taught so they can leverage connect health, social, medical and other forms of technology to advance the health of the nation. To meet the AACN Essential of Informatics and Healthcare Technology, graduates of accredited programs need to demonstrate skills using and evaluating outcome data; using current technologies; using information systems/technology to support and improve overall healthcare systems; and provide leadership in the evaluation and resolution of ethical and legal issues within healthcare systems related to technologies. In order to have a workforce that demonstrates these competencies, informatics needs to be integrated into nursing curriculum. Questions to determine how informatics education has evolved to meet the NLN Vision and AACN Essential and prepare a workforce that demonstrates informatics competencies include: 1. To what extent do nursing programs require informatics courses?, 2. When an informatics course is required, is it a nursing or general course?, and 3. When an informatics course is not required, how is informatics content included in the curriculum? Using the 2018 US News and World Report's top online schools in the United States, a review of the curriculum of RN to BSN, Masters and Doctorate programs in Nursing for informatics courses and competencies was completed. Each program was reviewed for informatics courses in the curriculum. Course descriptions were examined for informatics competencies and whether they were offered within the school or college of nursing. The purpose of this presentation is to report on the status of informatics content in nursing curriculum and discuss barriers to integrating informatics content, as well as impacts to the workforce.