A Strategy to Increase Students' Success on a High-Stakes Exam

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Learning Outcomes

- Discuss the rationale for the development of the strategy to improve students' success on a high stakes exam.

- Discuss the results and forthcoming plans for increasing students' success on a high stakes exam.

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High Stakes Exam

❖ High Stakes Exit Exams for NCLEX predictability

  ❖ Carr 2011); Cobbett et al. (2016); Havrilla et al. (2018); Hunsicker & Chitwood (2018); Johnson et al. (2017); Serembus (2016); Sosa & Sethares (2015)

❖ Comprehensive Assessment/Project

  ❖ College Requirement

  ❖ Last semester prior to graduation

Recognizing the Need for Change

❖ Student indicators

   ❖ Lack of motivation to succeed

   ❖ Unprepared

   ❖ Failure to utilize resources available
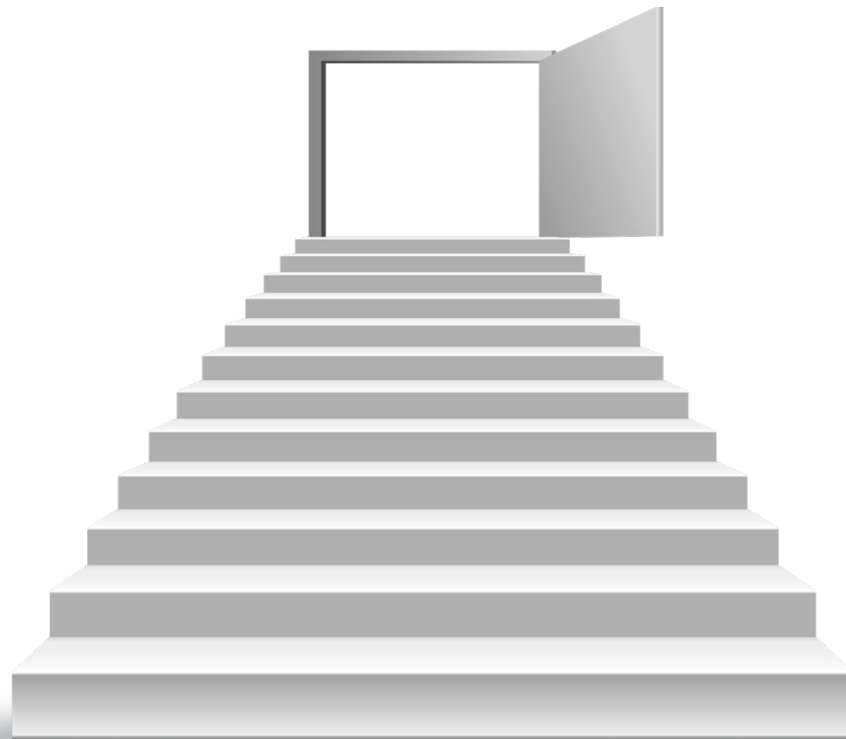
❖ Administrator indicators

   ❖ Stonecypher et al. (2015)

   ❖ Not meeting our benchmark

   ❖ Consequences of failure

      ❖ Sullivan (2014)

   ❖ Retake policy

Our Plan to Increase Success

❖Consultation with Kaplan

❖Policy developed & approved by Department Faculty

The New Plan

❖ **Ticket for Admission (TFA)**

    ❖ Series of tests recommended by Kaplan

        ❖ Focused Review Exams

            ❖ Fundamentals

            ❖ Pharmacology

            ❖ Management of Care

        ❖ Question Trainers

   ❖ Number of questions (75 to 265)

            ❖ Question difficulty

The New Plan

❖Ticket for Admission (TFA)

   ❖The rules:

      ❖Complete prior to scheduled Comprehensive Exam

      ❖Attain required score on each prep exam

      ❖Proof of remediation

❖Initiated in 2015

The Process

❖ 3 months prior to the Comprehensive Exam:

    ❖ Students are informed of the Department policy, rules and expectations for the TFA

    ❖ Contingency for failure of the Comprehensive Exam

    ❖ Instructed regarding Kaplan resources

    ❖ Date of Comprehensive Exam announced

1st Attempt Pass Rate: Pre/Post TFA
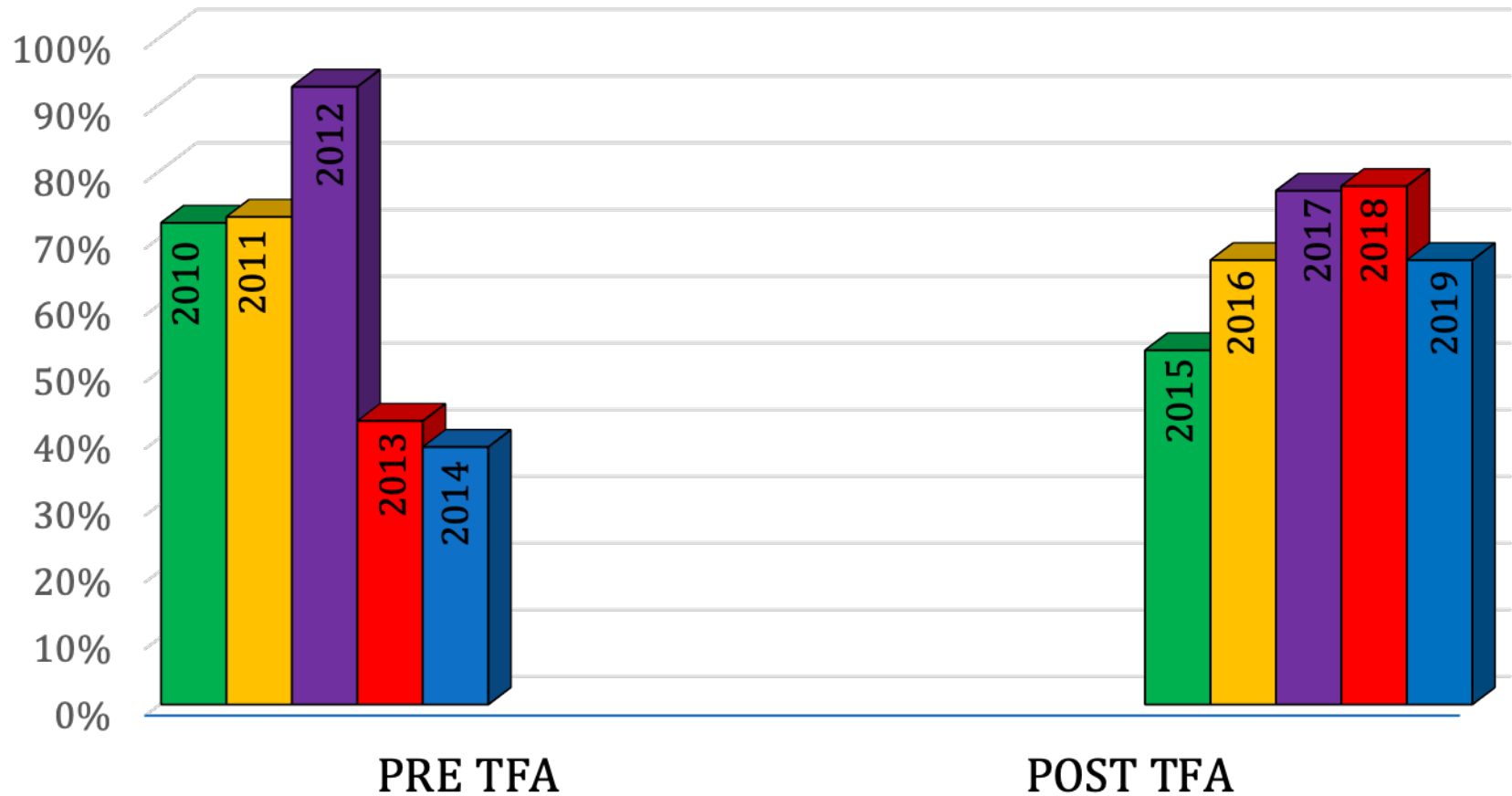
The Future

❖ Continue to analyze and share data with Faculty

❖ Revise policy and procedures according to results

❖ Set benchmarks

❖ Decide on due date for TFA

❖ Reinforce Kaplan resources/remediation in each course design

The Future Continued

❖Inform students of policy, rules, and expectations

The Future Continued:

❖ Continue to collaborate with Kaplan

❖ Ongoing assessment:
  ❖ Mee & Hallenbeck (2015)
    ❖ Create focus groups to discuss:
      ❖ the policy and rules
      ❖ experience of TFA
      ❖ value of TFA
    ❖ Develop an evaluation form for students to complete
    ❖ Develop a system to monitor student progress of TFA

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Thank you!

Questions??

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