

Can Connecting With Students Create a Seamless Transition From ADN to On-Line RN-BSN Programs?

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Disclosure

- Author: Holly R. Farley EdD, RN
- Objectives:
 - 1) describe study-online nursing education, millennial students transitioning to an online BSN program
 - 2) share findings and online strategies for the online instructor to create a seamless transition for students building on previous experiences
- Employer: Eastern Illinois University
- There is no conflict of interest
- There was no commercial support or sponsorship for the study

Background

- Push for Bachelor's degree as entry to practice
- Millennials are the largest group in the workforce
- Many studies identify millennial students as “tech savvy” and preferring online learning as an extension of their upbringing
- Gap exists. Little has been researched on the online preferences of this group

Research Questions

- Single exploratory case study
- **RQ1:** How do millennial nursing students develop preferences for learning activities and assignments in online RN-BSN programs?
- **RQ2:** How and why do millennial nursing students believe certain learning activities and assignments facilitate learning in online RN-BSN programs?
- **RQ3:** How and why do millennial nursing students believe certain learning activities and assignments hinder learning in online RN-BSN programs?

Themes

- **RQ1:** Face to face preferred, Obligations influence choice
- **RQ2:** Instructor Commitment, Lectures, Relevance to practice, Research required
- **RQ3:** Not challenging, Uninvolved instructors
- Specifically sought to identify specific activities and assignments, but found that no matter the assignment, overall dedication and guided learning through interaction from the instructor was most important
- Major theme that was supported by all other themes was **Instructor Commitment**

Connecting Students through Intentional Communication

- “check-in” emails
- Share information about yourself
- Allow students to call outside of office hours
- Follow-up when assignments are missed
- Respond in a timely manner
- Make all correspondence personal
- Always give feedback

Connecting with Students through Assignments and Activities

- Don't just be a bystander in the discussion forums
- Require more from students in discussion boards (not only certain number of posts).
- Don't be afraid to take off points
- Eliminate fill-in-blanks from PowerPoint
- Know your students knowledge base and experience
- Connect assignments to theory or concepts
- Be very clear as to “what” and “why” and “when”
- Don't make students guess at what is expected

Connecting Students with Each Other

- Group work
- Include lectures
- Consider synchronous classes when possible
- Encourage students to connect outside of the classroom through other platforms (simulates face-to-face)

Closing

- Transitioning from face-to-face can be difficult, even for the technologically savvy
- Create environments where students feel **CONNECTED**
- Commit to being involved in the online classroom and connecting with students

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Questions

