



Are Canadian Indigenous Students Feeling Ready for Registered Nursing Practice?

Noelle Rohatinsky, RN, PhD¹; Heather Exner-Pirot, PhD¹, Michèle Parent-Bergeron, RN, PhD²; Kristopher Bosevski, RN, MPH¹; Carrie Pratt, RN¹

¹University of Saskatchewan, College of Nursing, Saskatoon, SK, Canada

²Laurentian University, School of Nursing, Sudbury, ON, Canada



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Nursing
NURSING.USASK.CA

 nursing.usask.ca

Background

- Senior students often lack confidence and feel overwhelmed with their upcoming role.
- Very little research on Indigenous student perceptions of their preparedness for nursing practice.



Purpose

- To explore the readiness for practice perceptions of senior undergraduate nursing students of Indigenous ancestry.



Methods

- Descriptive, exploratory study design
- *Readiness for Practice Survey*
(Casey, Fink, Jaynes, Campbell, Cook, & Wilson, 2011)



Setting & Sample

- Saskatchewan, Canada
- One university location
- Eligibility criteria
 - Indigenous heritage
 - Graduating within next 2 months



Results - Demographics

Demographic Characteristics	Number of Participants
Age	
Mean Age (Years)	29.3 ± 7.6
Age Range (Years)	21-47
Median Age (Years)	28
Gender	
Male	2
Female	24
Ethnicity	
First Nations	12
Métis	14
Acute Care Final Practicum Location	
Urban	17
Rural	9

Results – Clinical Problem Solving

Statement	Mean Score
I use current evidence to make clinical decisions	2.23
I am confident in my ability to problem solve	2.12
I feel confident identifying actual or potential safety risks to my patients	2.12
I feel comfortable knowing what to do for a dying patient	1.58

Results – Learning Techniques

Statement	Mean Score
Simulations have helped me feel prepared for clinical practice	2.12
Writing reflective journals/logs provided insights into my own clinical decision-making skills	1.85



Results – Professional Identify

Statement	Mean Score
I am satisfied with choosing nursing as a career	2.77
I am comfortable asking for help	2.54
I feel comfortable communicating with patients and their families	2.27
I feel ready for the profession of nursing	1.88



Results – Trials & Tribulations

Statement	Mean Score
I have had opportunities to practice skills and procedures more than once	2.15
I am comfortable delegating tasks to the nursing assistant	1.88
I have difficulty prioritizing patient needs	1.04
I feel overwhelmed by ethical issues in my patient care responsibilities	0.96



Results – Skill Performance

Most comfortable	Least comfortable
Physical assessments	EKG/Telemetry monitoring
Blood glucose monitoring	Responding to emergency / code blue
Cultural competency	Trach care & suctioning
Intravenous pumps	Chest tube care
Pulse oximetry	Venipuncture



Results – Caring for Patients

- Less confident caring for higher numbers of patients



Results – More Prepared

- National licensure exam preparation assistance
- Increase clinical hours
- Opportunities for mentorship
- Greater practice with nursing related paperwork



Implications for Nursing Curricula

- Cultural background - no influence on readiness for practice perceptions
- Feelings of lack of preparation are common regardless of cultural heritage
- Nurse educators have a responsibility to facilitate student supports



Contact and Thanks

- Noelle Rohatinsky
noelle.rohatinsky@usask.ca



References

- Casey, K., Fink., R., Jaynes, C., Campbell, L., Cook, P., & Wilson, V. (2011). Readiness for practice: The senior practicum experience. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 50(11), 646-652.
doi:10.3928/01484834-20110817-03

