

Challenges for University, College, and Hospital Nursing Student Placement Coordinators in Toronto, Ontario: One Practical Approach for Discussion.

TOPIC AREA : Proposals for Future Research in Health Education

KEY WORDS: Nursing Practical Placements

AUTHORS:

Corresponding Author:

Catherine Walker, RN, BScN, MEd.

Practice Placement Manager for the Ryerson University, Centennial College, George Brown

Collaborative Degree Program

Ryerson University

350 Victoria Ave

Toronto, Ontario M5K 2K3

Phone number – (416) 979-5000 ext 6573

Fax number --- (416) 979-5332

Email address --- c1walker@acs.ryerson.ca

Lorraine Cramp, RN, BA, BScN, MEd, PhD(c)

Placement Coordinator/Health Science Lab Manager

Centennial College

PO Box 631, Station A

Scarborough, Ontario M1K 5E9

phone number – (416) 289-5000 ext 3646

Fax number --- (416) 289-5359

Email address --- lcramp@centennialcollege.ca

Connie Butler, RN, BA, BEd, BScN, MEd

Coordinator, Teaching Affiliations

The Scarborough Hospital

3050 Lawrence Ave East

Scarborough, Ontario M1P 2V5

Phone number – 438-2911 ext

Fax number --- (416) 431-8204

Email address --- cbutler@tsh.to

Challenges for University, College, and Hospital Nursing Student Placement Coordinators in Toronto, Ontario: One Practical Approach for Discussion.

Abstract

Larson (1977) stressed that the “essence” of occupational projects is the structural relationships procured between education and the occupation. Friedson (1986), from a different theoretical perspective, proposed that the closest one can come to identifying an “essence” of a profession is when an occupational project institutes formal education as a prerequisite for employment. However, nursing education in Ontario is in a transition. The need for open dialogue about student nurse practice placements has never been so necessary.

In light of the 1999 legislation, the transition of the basic education of nurses is creating challenges. These challenges include the increasing number of students requiring practice placement; the exacerbation of already existing competition for practice placements; and the desire of hospitals to honor the traditional placement partnership. These challenges are creating great confusion and concern within the traditional partnerships between the schools and health care facilities. Consequently, among the facilities desiring to honour the traditional placement partnerships, there are major concerns with the increase in the numbers and diversity of practice placement requests.

Based on the concept of professional projects, this paper will address the following questions: With the increase in numbers of students, how are hospitals and schools going to assure a quality education? With the current shortage of registered nurses, what workload stresses do nurses face when they are asked to precept a student? How do institutions balance recruitment of staff, the placement of the student nurses, and the recruitment of preceptors?

Open dialogue about student nurse practice placements must include all stakeholders in the quality education of our future nurses. The student placement coordinators of Collaborative Degree Program of Ryerson University, Centennial College and George Brown College and some hospital facilities have begun to address some of these challenges. From the insider’s perspective, this paper will illustrate how we are attempting to address these challenges.