

# Assessing Information Literacy in Advance Standing Nursing Program

**Operational Unit:** Health Sciences WEC

**Unit Purpose Statement:** The mission of the Health Sciences division is to provide high-quality, learning-centered education for students in nursing and allied health programs, and life-long learning through continuing education in health professions.

**Initiative Contact:** Louise Pitts

**Strategic Initiative:** Learning Assured

**Goal Outcome:** Integrate individual student effort with the learning process.

**Objective:** Learning Outcomes

**Objective Description:** Develop, align, and review program learning outcomes to assure a cohesive curricular and co-curricular experience that enhances student learning.

## Initiative's Relation to the Strategic Plan:

This initiative will assess the ability of nursing students to locate, evaluate, and use effectively research-based information found in nursing journals and approved nursing web sites to support evidence-based nursing practice. Student learning will be evaluated in an applied context through examination of work quality related to scheduled discussions and demonstration of effective clinical-decision making.

## Expected Results and the Means of Assessment

**Expected Results 1:** Students enrolled in the Advance Standing Nursing program will increase their use of current published nursing research to support their writing in online discussion scenarios related to evidence-based practice/clinical decision making.

**Means of Assessment:** An assessment rubric will be developed and used to evaluate student skill/ability to locate and effectively use current published nursing research and appropriate nursing journal articles via the hyperlink added to the online WebCT nursing courses.

**Individual Responsible:** Louise Pitts

**Expected Completion:** 6/1/2009

**Stakeholders:**

**Results:** An online library link specific for nursing journals was developed and this link was placed in all online WebCT facilitated Advance Standing Nursing (AVS) courses. The review of the data from Valencia's Online Library tracking usage system suggested that students increased their usage of the Online Library to access nursing journals and approved nursing websites rather than the previously accessed online references that were designed to teach the lay person or were selling a medical product.

Student work in one AVS course was used to assess the use of nursing research for clinical-based situations in an online discussion board. Use of reputable nursing resources to support decision-making in practice situations was evaluated with the use of a newly developed assessment rubric in 2008 and compared to use of nursing research in similar discussion situations in the same course in 2007.

Student use of nursing research to support decision making in 2007:

- (A) One of four small group posts to a large group discussion forum contained nursing research articles to support student work
- (B) One of ten students used nursing research to support their response to any small group post, in the large group forum.

Student use of nursing research to support decision making in 2008, after implementation of Online Library link in nursing courses and inclusion of grading rubric for evaluation:

- (A) Three of four small group posts to a large group discussion forum contained nursing research articles to support student work

(C) Eight of ten students used nursing research to support their response to any small group post, in the large group forum.

#### **Implementation Plan**

**Budget Requirements:** None

**Results to Improve:** Results indicate an increase in the use of nursing research to support evidenced-based decision making by students when discussing nursing practice situations. Requiring use of current published nursing research, as part of a grade on the newly developed rubric, has increased the use of the nursing research to support clinical decision making rather than using potentially unreliable resources intended for the lay population on the World Wide Web. It is hoped that the students will value the importance of nursing research to support evidence-based practice.

**Changes for Next Year:** The rubric will continue to be reviewed for effectiveness. The nursing faculty plan to develop strategies to increase students' awareness of how the use of research supports evidence-based practice. The Online Library will continually be reviewed for currency of nursing journals and updated as needed.

#### **Additional Document Attachments**

**File:** <http://net3.valenciacc.edu/sip/uploads/Rubric1.docx>