

Foundation of Nursing Education-BSN Program

Name

Institution's Name

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### Introduction

Over the past forty years, the nursing associate degree has been the most important credential to individuals who want to work as nurses. ~~Nevertheless, few hospitals in the United States hire nurses that hold a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing (BSN). The two degrees are different based on the scope the career. A BSN program has additional instruction to the training of nurses in terms of critical thinking, social sciences, and leadership skills. The BSN degree also prepares the students to take more roles such as consulting, teaching, administration, and leading. This program also requires more time compared to the associate degree. The associate degree takes up to two years of study whereas the BSN program takes at least four years of study. The following report will explain the importance of~~ changing the associate degree into a Bachelor of Science. It will explore different decisions from medical associations, and focus on the significance of a BSN program to the nurses.

### B. Justify the Change

The medical world is evolving, and changes in technology, diseases, and high population are some of the challenges that nurses face during the course of their work. Technology requires ~~the nurses to adjust their traditional methods of treating patients and focus on the modern medicine. Some of these changes the nurses face in their career are increase of technology training. The associate degree course taken by most of these nurses does not cover some important factors~~

such as information, technology, critical thinking, leadership, and communication among other areas. These challenges or landscapes also make it essential to change the associate degree into Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Delaney & Piscopo, 2014). Additionally, the adequate training of the nurses within the four years will also improve the medical center due to improved skills, critical thinking, and better research.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) started a program in 2008 that would help transform the nursing profession. **According to this body, the health sector has been working challenges that are beyond the scope the associate degree nurses. The aim of the initiative was to produce highly educated nurses that also great skills and knowledge in their field. According to the body, the way the nurses were trained during the twentieth century is not adequate to deal with the r** realities facing the health sector in the 21st century. Patients environments are complex, and the patients need high-quality care. This means that the nurses will feel more adequate if they have a BSN

### C. Recommendations

The need to use more time to train nurses to become competent in different areas is essential. The time and resources required for a BSN degree are different from **the time needed to study the associate degree in nursing. As stated earlier, the associate degree takes about 21 months while the BSN takes four years. While considering the BSN program, it is essential to**

consider the time required to complete the courses, the facilities needed, and other resources such as tutors, and other professionals. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommends that the four-year program should consider additional courses that will teach the students research, technology, critical thinking, communication, and leadership. Additionally, these courses will have a higher chance of diversifying in their skills through various and elective programs. The specialization of the courses will also improve the quality of care given to the patients. Moreover, integrating a BSN program will also ensure students with lack of adequate resources, and resources. Changing the associate degree to the BSN program requires more tutors and advanced facilities

to cater for the needs of the students. The finances needed to purchase the facilities and hire additional teachers can be limiting during the assimilation process (Rogers, 2010).

#### D. Learning theories

The selected learning theory help the nurses become ready to face the new realities of the world. This means that the learning method must improve the critical thinking capabilities of the students and increase their skills in various of leadership, communication, and research. The constructivist learning theory is one of the methods that help the students achieve these goals. The constructivist approach helps a student in the conceptual and logical growth. The theory argues that students will produce knowledge and learn meaning according to their experiences. It

**helps the students solve challenges based on the realities of the world. One of the primary advantages of the theory is that helps students relate what they have learned in the classroom with what they encounter in the work.** This is due to the hands-on experiences the students are exposed to during the learning course (Delaney & Piscopo, 2014).

Teachers will focus on areas that interest the students. That means that the students can decide to specify on one area in their fields. **Nevertheless, this theory requires extensive teaching, and the cost of teaching the professionals is high. Moreover, the high number of students in a classroom makes it hard for the instructor to give each student the attention they require.** **Moreover, the prior knowledge of the students will vary** during the teaching process. Therefore, some students will perform well based on their involvements (Eui Geum, et al., 2010).

### **E. Educational Philosophies**

The multiple bits of intelligence theory differentiates intelligence into specific modalities instead of taking intelligence as a single ability. Howard **Gardner created the model of multiple intelligences, and it consists of eight categories. These categories include visual, musical, verbal, bodily, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and intrapersonal intelligences.** Using this theory to teach the BSN program will help the students have multiple intelligences hence improve their judgment when handling patients.

One of the advantages of this theory is that the instructor will notice specific weaknesses of the students and provide help to students individually. For instance, if one student is weak in verbal skills and the other is poor in interpersonal skills, the instructor will customize the curriculum to help the students realize their flaws (Jeffreys, 2012). On the other hand, the theory does not have a standard measure of intelligence. This means that the instructor will define the term intelligence and help students achieve this intelligence.

#### F. Modalities for the Deliver

The mode of delivery used during the amalgamation of the BSN program will determine the success of the program. Selecting a mode of delivery that is convenient for both tutors and students is important. Moreover, the mode of delivery should be cheap, reliable, and efficient. The traditional classroom is one of the most effective methods of teaching nursing courses. The classroom allows both students and tutors to interact on an individual level. This means that the tutor will have time to answer questions from students. The traditional classroom allows the instructor to teach several students simultaneously (Rogers, 2010). The instructor will also notice the weaknesses of the students and change their curriculum to cater to these weaknesses.

Another effective mode of instruction delivery is online education. The high technology and advancement of technology has enabled students to provide online courses for students who are far from the institutions or are physically unavailable. An online course is flexible and will

help the students take a course if their program allows. Through online education, tutors will help students learn how to research, carry out an assignment and interact virtually on a personal and physical level. However, online education will limit the ability of the students to handle experiments and other hands-on experiences.

### G. Formative and Summative Assessments

Competency in clinical training is an important factor of any good nursing practice. One of the responsibilities of the instructor is to determine the progress the student is making towards achieving the course objectives and goals. The formative and summative assessments are some of the methods the clinical instructor can use to determine the progress of these students. The formative tests are part of any instructional delivery (Jhal Chana, et al., 2008). These tests help the instructor to modify the classroom practice in order to be more of learning and teaching.

Additionally, formative tests help instructors to change their delivery tactics to fit the student understanding. Meanwhile, the formative tests only test a given time throughout an objective as it should be especially for new instructors. The summative tests determine if the students have achieved the course competencies and objectives. The rationale of these tests is that the students want to be tested to know if the students can remember what they learned during the course. These tests have been highly criticized because they limit a student in a given area.



These tests also rank students according to their grades and it is not an effective way of measuring competency.

The classroom assessment technique can improve the education quality of the BSN program. These tests help the instructor to ~~measure the skill of the students after a given topic.~~

~~The assessment will rank the students based on the performance~~ of a given test. One advantage of these tests is that they help n instructor focus on one topic at a time.

### H. ANA Code of Ethics

The ANA code of ethics was created to aid nurses in professional practice when faced with an ethical dilemma. The ethics act as an outline for responsibilities, ~~duties, and values of~~ ~~nurses. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) give the parent more rights over~~ ~~the medical records of their children. The BSN program acknowledges this act and informs the~~ ~~students in cases where they are allowed to share information with parents about the children.~~ ~~The Americans with Disability Act is another important law which the BSN program must~~ ~~strictly adhere to when handling such patients. These patients are considered~~ equal and have similar rights to any other patient walking into a hospital or health facility (Eui Geum, et al., 2010). Teaching students on how to handle people with disability and their unique needs are essential.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) give the patient the ability to transfer or continue with their medical ~~insurance even after termination of treatment. The~~

**BSN program will teach students on health insurance when it is viable and the circumstances when the patients are protected by the HIPAA. Students will be** taught copyright laws as they learn plagiarism and other copyright offenses. Copyright laws will also help students adhere to policies required.

### I. Nursing Accreditation Methods

Certification and approval of the BSN program will determine the viability of the course. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) **is one of the methods used to** **assess degree courses like the BSN program. The standards required by the CCNE must be** **met for the degree to be accredited. For instance, the program must meet the required** **standards for a degree course. The course must meet the** requirement of the practice.

CCNE also considers the value of the course, its relevance, and its future development in the nursing practice.

### J. Conclusion

The traditional associate degree in nursing is becoming outdated with the dramatic changes in the medical sector. **The high population and new challenges the health sector face** **every require the nurses to have new skills that help them carry their duties efficiently. The** **BSN program is believed to close the gap in experience, skills, and competencies faced by the** **nurses. This program is expected to add instruction on critical thinking, working information,** **research, communication, and leadership to the nurses.** The integration of the nursing program

will require accreditation, a learning theory, and educational philosophy to make it a better course.

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