STUDENT MOTIVATION AND NCLEX PREPARATION

LIPPINCOTT FOR LIFE

Case Study

Motivating Students

Anne Riggs, MSN, RN

Director, Division of Nursing and Allied Health
Assistant Professor of Nursing
Hannibal-La Grange University, Hannibal, MO

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- **Mastery levels help with student motivation and improving study skills**
- **Helps students better understand where they need to focus their studying**

Course

In the spring 2012 semester I am teaching a nursing seminar. This is the second year I have used NCLEX-RN 10,000 with this course, and the fourth year I have taught it. The course is a two-hour-per-week credit course focusing on transition, getting students ready to graduate, and helping them prepare for the NCLEX. A couple of years ago, the NCLEX pass rates at our school were not looking good. I looked at some of the options that other schools were using and I noticed a few other schools had a mini-course specifically designed to help students prepare for the NCLEX. So I put in a request to increase the number of hours per week for the seminar course so I could focus on NCLEX prep as well. There are about 35 students in the course and the thrust of the course is developing individual study plans using tools such as NCLEX-RN 10,000 and HESI. I lecture for two hours per week and then students attend a computer lab for three hours a week. Here they do a lot of practice exams in a quiet and distraction-free environment.

Course Grading Policies and Assessment

Students pass the course as long as they submit a portfolio containing their individualized study plan and each week they take NCLEX-style questions which align to the content they are learning in their other course work. In that way, this course is a complement to their other studies. Students are required to reach a certain mastery level (4) on each content area in which they take quizzes.

NCLEX-RN 10,000 Implementation

I started to use NCLEX-RN 10,000 about two years ago when I was given a free trial. I was helping students prepare for the NCLEX exam and I saw NCLEX-RN 10,000 as

another resource to help students. Students are required to create their own individualized study plans and NCLEX-RN 10,000 helps them do that. They need to identify their strengths and weaknesses. Having this information after they graduate, and before they take the NCLEX, is really important. We all know what our strengths are, but knowing our weaknesses is a more difficult thing. Using NCLEX-RN 10,000 is one way to help students get a better sense of where they are.

NCLEX-RN 10,000 is integrated into the course in two ways:

- Mastery Level Quizzes: Each week, students complete a mastery level quiz aligned to the content in their other nursing course.

- Computer lab assignments: Every two weeks I go into NCLEX-RN 10,000 and I look at the questions and make up tests of 100 questions. I base these on things like pharmacology, client needs, etc. I assign these during the computer lab time. These exams aren't as long as the actual NCLEX, but they do get students used to answering 100 questions in one sitting.

I want to make using NCLEX-RN 10,000 as valuable as possible to the students—so they don't just see it as busy work. Tying the exams to the course content helps me achieve this goal. Sometimes I will go into NCLEX-RN 10,000 and make an assignment with all alternative format questions.

Students in this course struggle with motivation and transitioning to being able to sit still and study and really focus on what they are doing. You need good study skills to be able to learn the material and then sit and take the exam.

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Sometimes, I think that there's a "light bulb" that goes off and students connect all the pieces together and really start to put in effort. And when they do, it will pay off. But they need to do it.

I love going into NCLEX-RN 10,000 and looking at the data. It's fascinating. Sometime students don't realize how many questions they are answering. They are amazed! I check and see that the assignments are done and I look at the misconceptions and strengths and weaknesses. I'm not really focused on teaching content in this course and so I don't look at those things as much as I would if I were teaching a different course.

NCLEX-RN 10,000 really helps students see that they don't know as much as they think. After taking quizzes in NCLEX-RN 10,000, many students will say, "I don't know the content as well as I thought I did." They start to see that they really need to put in some effort to get ready for the NCLEX.

Alongside NCLEX-RN 10,000 we are also using the HESI testing package. HESI is more structured and has content set up into tests pre-built into the system. In NCLEX-RN 10,000 I can do that for them (create the tests). The flipside, however, is that HESI only has two practice exams on each content area—that's it. So the fact that NCLEX-RN 10,000 has so many more questions is a really great feature.

Findings

My students really like NCLEX-RN 10,000. Some of my students from last year emailed me and asked me if I could make them more tests in NCLEX-RN 10,000. They really saw the value in it. They like the mastery levels in NCLEX-RN 10,000. Students like the variety, but their favorite feature is the mastery levels. It really seems to motivate them and it's how they can monitor their progress. They like the customizability of NCLEX-RN 10,000. It's nice to be able to do just 10 questions if that's all they feel like doing. They also really like the rationales they get for the questions. We

have had some challenges to using an online program, but this might be because of the network at our school. Sometimes students get logged out.

There was an interesting story related to NCLEX-RN 10,000. There was a student at our school who graduated and took the NCLEX about nine years ago (before I was here). She didn't pass and has been trying to pass the NCLEX ever since. She has been an LPN, was trying to move to another level, and needed to pass the NLCEX. She kept working and taking the NCLEX over and over—I think she took it about 8 times. She was using a HESI testing package and kept not passing. Then, a friend of hers gave her access to NCLEX-RN 10,000 and she answered a LOT of practice questions and then she passed on her next try! Something just clicked and the only difference from all the previous times she had tried was that she used NCLEX-RN 10,000!

Conclusions and Future Use

I am going to continue using NCLEX-RN 10,000 in my course. My students really seem to like it and they really seem to see the value in the information in NCLEX-RN 10,000. I like the way that I can get more information on student strengths and weaknesses and I can convey that information to the other faculty. Seeing how students do on certain areas in NCLEX-RN 10,000 helps us know where we need to add extra content into our teaching.