

Internationalizing the Undergraduate Nursing Major

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Efforts are underway to develop an undergraduate nursing curriculum that includes global and cross-cultural perspectives and content so the students will have an increased awareness of diversity and the necessary cross-cultural communication skills to fulfill their roles in today's healthcare arena. This effort includes devising a means to identify measurable outcomes for assessment of the plan that the nursing department implements.

Steps thus far include:

- 1) involvement of nursing faculty serving on the nursing curriculum committee who are developing a matrix to examine and document what nursing is already doing in our current courses related to the internationalization process;
- 2) nursing faculty, Donna Ingram RN, MSN, has written a proposal and received a grant from the Multicultural and Diversity committee to develop a collaborative, interdepartmental 'Spanish for Nurses' program for nursing students and other interested nurses in the community;
- 3) development of a study abroad program in Belize for Maymester 2008;
- 4) receiving support from nursing faculty and community nurses, who are members of the Theta Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for the establishment of a study abroad scholarship for a pre-nursing or nursing student who wishes to study abroad in Belize during Maymester, 2008;
- 5) some faculty participating in program planning for an annual state nursing conference where 'globalization' has been built into the conference proceedings; and
- 6) conducting a review of a textbook for possible adoption for use with all nursing students that was written to serve as a guide to providing culturally competent health care to the culturally diverse populations in America who seek health care, and to health-care providers who seek to provide culturally sensitive health care to all populations. The Model for Cultural Competence usefulness presented in the book has been established globally because it includes assessment, health-care planning, interventions, and evaluation.