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Utilizing social media in nurse practitioner education through a Twitter journal club

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Keywords

Assessment of learning, Classroom/didactic teaching, Educational research findings, Educational research methods and models, Student presentation

Abstract

As the number of online nurse practitioner programs continues to increase, finding creative methods to enhance scholarly engagement among students is imperative. The use of social media as a means for professional networking and education among healthcare providers has recently exploded (Choo et. al., 2015, Cawcutt, Marcelin, & Silver, 2019). However, nursing lags behind medicine and other fields in utilizing this platform (Gomes et. al., 2017). This proposal describes the use of the Twitter platform to connect acute care pediatric nurse practitioner (ACPNP) students and faculty from four programs through an online journal club. Participating schools were informally recruited at a professional meeting of pediatric nurse practitioner faculty. Students and faculty were provided training on the functionality of the Twitter platform and given opportunities to practice utilizing the different functionalities prior to the event. Students in each program were assigned the same article to review and prepare their posts based on the rubric for the assignment. During a 48-hour window, students tweeted their thoughts on the article and responded to posts from other students, utilizing pre-assigned hashtags. At the conclusion of the event, hashtags were analyzed to determine reach and influence of the posts. The students also completed a post assignment survey. Student evaluation of this assignment demonstrated attainment of learning objectives and a positive assessment of this novel andragogical approach. The outcome demonstrates that social media platforms can be utilized to enhance networking and collaboration for ACPNP students and faculty. Further expansion of this assignment will include additional schools, examining additional topics relevant to pediatric nurse practitioner education.

Learning Objectives

1. Utilizing Social Media in Nurse Practitioner Education Through a Twitter Journal Club
2. Describe methods for utilizing social media in healthcare education.
3. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of integrating social media into healthcare curriculum.
4. Identify opportunities for utilizing an online journal club utilizing alternate platforms