

# Building Social Capital to Foster Development of New Nursing Professionals

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## Introduction

Medical errors cause 98,000 deaths in the US each year. The Institute of Medicine has recommended that researchers investigate strategies that build social capital to address healthcare quality.

## Goal

•Prelicensure nursing students graduating from Mennonite College of Nursing show less satisfaction with their classmates in relation to camaraderie, academic integrity and ability to work in groups than with other aspects of the program. Additionally, faculty note a degree of incivility in interactions among and between students and faculty.

•The goal of this study is to explore the dimensions of student dissatisfaction with classmates and incivility to others and then develop strategies to build social capital.

## Methods

### Community Based Participative Research

•A collaborative approach that involves community members and researchers in the research process

•Links faculty and students in conducting research

### Mixed Methods Approach

- Journal Clubs
- On-line Journaling
- Peer Interviews
- Peer Questionnaires

### Data Analysis

- Qualitative : Concept Analysis of Themes
- Quantitative :Descriptive Statistics and mean differences between pre- and post-intervention measures

## Findings

### Civility

#### Why is civility important?

“Everybody needs to be there for each other to get things done. So much to learn and do, especially in the clinical setting.”

#### Give an example of civility.

“In clinical I had a very demanding patient and the other students went out of their way to help me.”

#### Give an example of incivility.

“In clinical, students won’t answer questions, they just walk away. You depend on them and they’re not there for you.”

### Camaraderie

#### Why is camaraderie important?

“It’s so important to have friends in nursing. To have someone who knows what you’re going through because it’s not like any other major.”

#### Give an example of camaraderie.

“You have to give a bedbath to a difficult patient. You bring someone else in and work as a team.”

#### Give an example of lack of camaraderie.

“If you’re working on a group project and somebody won’t do the work.... Won’t even come to the meetings.”

### Study Groups

#### Why is the ability to work in study groups important?

“In nursing you have to work together as a team, so it gives us a good chance to practice working with others.”

#### Give an example of effective study group behavior.

“Everyone participates. They are really open and helpful.”

#### Give an example of ineffective study group behavior.

“We work hard to make a study guide and somebody comes along and wants it, but they didn’t participate in putting it together.”

### Academic Integrity

#### Why is academic integrity important?

“Especially in nursing, if you glide by on other people’s work and get into the profession, it’s really bad for you and especially bad for your patient. You are putting someone’s life in danger.”

“We’re going to be nurses. You have to have your own knowledge because it’s life or death.”

#### Give an example of academic integrity.

“Cite your sources. Don’t cheat on tests.”

#### Give an example of lack of academic integrity.

“A senior passed along a copy of an Adult I exam. Those students had an unfair advantage. It’s not fair to us and it’s not going to be fair to their patients when those nurses don’t know their stuff.”



## Conclusion: Emerging Themes

### •Civility is crucial for:

- Success in the classroom and clinical setting
- Getting things done

### •Camaraderie is crucial for:

- Emotional support
- Stress relief

### •Working in groups is crucial for:

- Learning the information
- Nursing practice
- Getting things done

### •Academic integrity is crucial for:

- Patient safety
- The profession of nursing

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