

Increasing the Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Pipeline

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AdventHealth Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Program

Problem

- Anesthesia is a growing field due to the aging population and increase in the number of elective surgeries.
- In the United States there is currently a lack of qualified anesthesia providers equating to an excess demand of 10.7%, which is expected to remain present leading into 2027 (Negrusa, 2021).

Methods

- This project is based on a quasi-experimental research design
- There is a pre-survey and a post-survey consisting of 6 questions.
- Sample: 8 BSN-SRNA pairs
- 2 mentorship sessions with a first year SRNA
- 1 skills session with second year SRNAs

Illustration



Yes, it decreased	0
Yes, it increased	2
No, it did not change	0

- 100% of the sample who partook in the study stated that they have increased their intent to apply to CRNA school within the next 3 years.

Limitations

- The perceived lack of time felt by the nursing student could be an independent factor that limited participation.
- The lack of compensation for the time dedicated to the study could be a cause of limited volunteers and response rates.
- Inconvenience due to scheduling conflicts and length of mentorship program could also have been a deterrent

Conclusions

- The mentorship program had an increased interest during the pre-survey period however, participation dwindled as the program progressed.
- Due to various limitation including lack of compensation, convenience, and a prolonged IRB/SRC approval our sample size was limited and unfortunately not statistically significant

Literature Review

- While peer mentorship is known for these mental health benefits, it is now being examined as a way to increase the nursing post-baccalaureate pipeline and influence career specialty choice amongst graduate healthcare students (Earp et al., 2020; Salerno et al., 2017; Stanfill et al., 2019).
- Exposure to different advanced nursing degrees in undergraduate nursing students was shown to increase intent to pursue a doctoral degree (Salerno et al. 2017; Stanfill et al., 2019)

Results

- The pre-mentorship survey was completed by eleven BSN students. A majority of the participants correctly identified scope of practice items performed by the CRNA and the ability of CRNA's to practice without physician supervision, however only 37% correctly identified areas that CRNA's can practice .
- 81% of participants had plans to apply to a DNAP program in the future and the time to apply ranged from 1-5 years, with 90% of participants interested in a mentorship program.
- Unfortunately, only 2 students filled out the post-mentorship survey so results could not be analyzed.

Discussion & Implications

- The results from the study provided no significant data due to the lack of participation.
- This is attributed to the small sample size of volunteers that completed all three components of the study: meeting with mentors, attending a skills lab, and completing the pre and post participation survey.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Amanda Bracken, DNP, CRNA, APRN for guidance during this project.

