

Measuring Competence, Anxiety and Confidence in First-Year DPT Students During an Integrated Clinical Experience

Researcher

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Abstract

Currently all DPT students take part in three integrated clinical experiences (ICE) as part of the curriculum here at Fresno State. While all accredited DPT educational programs are required to provide their students with ICEs, Fresno State's curriculum is unique as it provides significantly greater access to real patients under the supervision of licensed clinicians during the three ICEs. This increase in the number of hours our students spend treating real patients as part of their ICEs is intended to increase their clinical experience and confidence prior to their leaving campus during the three external clinical experiences and ultimately upon graduation when they become licensed Doctors of Physical Therapy. While there is anecdotal evidence as to the success of our ICEs there has not been any specific measures of the impact the ICEs here at Fresno State have had on our students' confidence and or anxiety.

The NASC-CDM was designed to measure the impact ICEs and simulation training had on nursing students' confidence and anxiety when making clinical decisions. The scientific validity of this survey tool has been validated and published in the literature. Working collaboratively with the study's author I have been authorized by the author to modify the NASC-CDM to measure confidence and anxiety in our DPT students. Currently the NASC-CDM is being used as part the course requirements for both PHTH 554 and PHTH 556. Similarly each student is required to assess their own clinical performance using the same tool, the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI), used by their clinical instructors (CI) to calculate midterm and final grades. Finally each student's patients complete a patient satisfaction questionnaire which is also used to help grade the student.

This project will allow us to combine student performance as rated by the students' CI and patient with the students' own self analysis of performance, anxiety and confidence to truly measure the impact of our ICEs on our students. This project will ultimately allow us to track this cohort of students for the next three years and subsequent cohorts to determine the effectiveness of the ICEs here at Fresno State.