Background

- There are more than 158,000 practicing NPs. Close to 9,203 new NPs are prepared each year at over 325 colleges and universities in the U.S.

- To assure a match between education and clinical competencies, certification is a commonly legislated practice eligibility mandate.

- Graduate nursing faculty are implementing standardize certification predictive testing, exit exam benchmarking, and remediation strategies to facilitate student success on national certification exams.

- Evidence-based testing product
  - Reliable and valid test items
  - Matched certification body test blueprints
  - Established national benchmark or cutscore
Exam Blueprints

- HESI™ APRN Exam Blueprints
  - HESI Standard Scoring Categories
  - NONPF Competencies
  - ANCC & AANP Exam Content Outlines
  - National Organization of Nurse Executives

- Exams Developed
  - Family Nurse Practitioner
  - Adult Nurse Practitioner
  - Acute Care Nurse Practitioner*
  - Nursing Executive*
  - IPs – Patho/Pharm/Physical Diagnosis*

* Piloting Exam

Reliability

- Reliability Estimates—dynamically measured
- Calculated for each HESI exam administered
  - Item Difficulty
  - Item Discrimination
    - Point Biserial Correlation Coefficient
    - Kuder-Richardson 20 (KR-20)


Prairie View A&M University

- FNP Program
  - Admits each semester
  - Currently has 109 students enrolled with FNP declared as their major
  - Primarily part-time students
Purpose

- The aim of this study was to determine the predictive rate for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse success on national advance practice certification testing for a cohort of graduate Family Nurse Practitioner students.
- In addition, testing reports served as the basis for formative evaluation, remediation, and self-directed student learning.

Methods

- After obtaining Institutional Review Board approval, a cohort of students was invited to participate in testing and report review.
- The Elsevier HESI Family Nurse Practitioner Exam (FNP) consisting of 110 items was taken electronically and individualized score reports were printed at the conclusion of the exam.
- Faculty reviewed exam outcomes and reports with the participants and action plans were developed.

Instruments

- Investigator Questionnaire
  - Anonymous
  - 12-item multiple choice
    - Age
    - Ethnicity
    - Years of nursing
    - Enrollment status
    - Test preparation strategies used
Instruments

- Elsevier HESI™ APRN FNP
- 100-item APRN Comprehensive Exams
  - 10 pilot items; Multiple choice and multiple answer questions
- Reliabilities and Average Item Uses
  - KR-20 ~ 0.932
  - Item uses = ranges from 466 to 2394
- HESI Recommended Benchmarks
  - Recommended Score - 800 and above
  - Minimally Acceptable Score - 750

Results

- Twenty-one (84%) of the 25 students participated, 19 females and 2 males.
  - 17 were African-American and one each was Hispanic, Caucasian and Asian
- All students were enrolled as part-time students.
- Most students had been Registered Nurses for five or more years.

Remediation Strategies
Results

- HESI score ranges for the FNP Exam were:
  - Ranged from 604 to 1035
  - Mean of 801
  - Mode of 865
  - Standard deviation of 119

- All students have passed the American Academy Nurse Practitioner Family certification

Summary Scoring Report

- Provided valuable student competency data that allowed faculty to address student knowledge gaps with remediation and clinical experiences.
Strengthen Content

Track Course Outcomes

Program Evaluation

- Lessons learned from program evaluation
  - Use the evidence to make decisions
  - Review reports but keep a perspective on how your students are performing compared to other schools
  - Track and Trend over several cohorts
  - Adds richness of details when multiple learning strategies are being implemented
Conclusions

- HESI Exit standardize testing
- Measured students' application of knowledge to clinical practice situations
- Predict certification exam success
- Identified specific areas for remediation
- Contributed to data for program curriculum evaluation and accreditation

Summary

- We plan to continue to use standardize testing in the final FNP course – self-assessment and remediation
- We are considering the HESI 3Ps exam at the beginning of the Adult Elderly course
- Consider consequences of standardize testing will be implemented

Long Range Goal

- Maintain our 100% pass rate on certification examinations!
Questions ??

• Thank you!

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