

1

Evaluating Student's Perception of Course Assignments

Angela Golden, RN, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP

Northern Arizona University



2

Why

- Faculty design curricula to be cohesive, logical and to build professional knowledge, skills and values.
- Student recognition of the relevance of course assignments may increase engagement in the learning process.

3

Why

- Faculty workload
- More with less
- Use of technology
- Student workload vs perceived value

4

How

- Looking for an evaluation tool
 - TLT presentation
 - Is there a match between what we think and what they think

5

Process

- Literature review
 - Jackman, Goldfinch, and Searl (2001) investigated the assignments in the two university math courses
 - did assignments improve students' basic mathematical skills
 - Did assignments improve application of mathematics.
 - Stempien and Betz (2009) investigated the introduction of videos into Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) courses
 - opinion of students and instructors regarding effectiveness of videos in learning in ACLS

6

Process

- Creation of the Relevance of Course Assignment Tool (RCA Tool)
 - Used in undergraduate foundational course
 - Then in graduate pharmacology course



7

Process

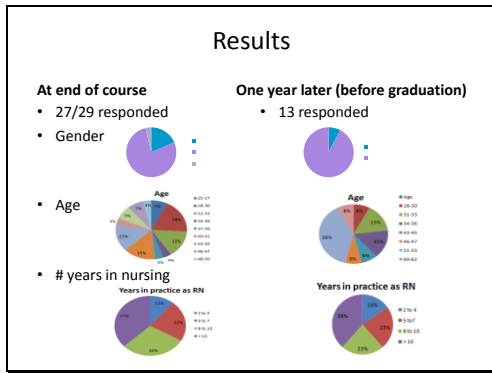
- Collects demographic data
- Asks students to rate each assignment
 - 1. These assignments did not appear to have any use in the course or in my post graduate nursing career.
 - 2. I can understand the purpose for the course but cannot see their use for future in my post graduate nursing career.
 - 3. These assignments did appear to have a use in the course and for the future use in my post graduate nursing career.

8

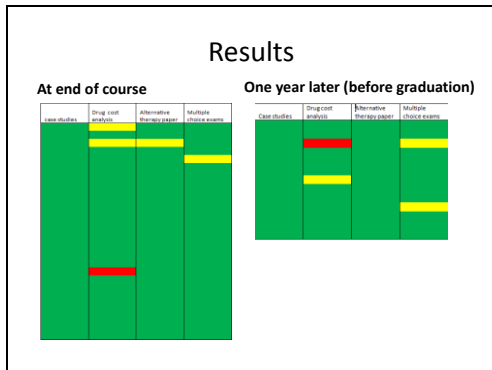
The Course

- Graduate pharmacology
 - Hybrid – on line and synchronous webcasting sessions
- Assignments
 - Case studies – used to apply the online asynchronous learning
 - Two papers – drug class cost analysis and alternative therapy
 - Multiple choice exams

9



10



11

Discussion

- Overall the evaluations were positive in relation to assignments perceived as having purpose.
- Easy visual of the overall perception of the class.

12

Next Steps

- Still need to survey these students 6 months after graduation
 - 1. This assignment has not been useful in my advanced nursing practice.
 - 2. I can understand the purpose for the course but it has not been useful knowledge in my advanced nursing practice.
 - 3. This assignment has provided me with knowledge useful in my advanced nursing practice.

13

Implications

- Educators using learner-centered education need to evaluate student perceptions of assignments to create an environment of learning.
- Overall, the students' perceptions in this study were positive.
- RCA tool may be useful in assessing students' perceptions of assignments in other courses and other types of nursing programs, both undergraduate and graduate.

14

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Pamela Stetina
- Dean Debera Thomas
- TLT group <http://www.tltgroup.org/>
- Northern Arizona University Campus



15

References

- Jackman, S., Goldfinch, J., & Searl, J. The effectiveness of coursework assessment in mathematics service courses - studies at two universities. *Int. J. Math. Educ. Sci. Technol.* 2001;32(2):175-187.
- Stempien, J. & Betz, M. A prospective study of students' and instructors' opinions on Advanced Cardiac Life Support course teaching methods. *CJEM.* 2009;11(1):57-63.