Virtual Case Studies: Stimulate Advanced Critical Thinking in Nurse Practitioner Students

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Objectives

• Provide NP students with an opportunity to apply advanced practice nursing knowledge and skills learned in the previous semesters of study.
• Allow NP students to utilize their critical thinking skills to work up individual, maximally simulated cases in the least stressful environment.
• Modify the cases based on student responses and ability to handle complexity.
• Develop a level of confidence and enthusiasm among NP students.
• Utilize the teaching/learning strategies to their best potential.
• Promote case presentation skills among NP students.

Major Elements

• Individual NP students.
• Individual Cases.
• Can be done remotely.
• Opportunity to modify based on student responses.
• Ongoing positive and negative feedback to students.
• Multiple steps—critical thinking.
• 1:1 learning without being 1:1 live.
• Students encouraged to consult available resources—look up information.
• Keep student’s interest.
• Ability to guide students during case management.
• The students work up cases under faculty supervision and present to the class.

Student Feedback

I just want to say that this assignment was one of the most interesting and fun assignments I have done in a long time. As a NP student, I am constantly trying to figure out the diagnosis on my own before my preceptor gives me an idea and this assignment fully reinforces that. Thank you for giving us such an interesting assignment that reinforces what we do in clinic. Please don’t stop doing this in the future! 

Dr. A, I enjoyed this as a way to learn. It stimulated me to think and look up information that prepares me to be more informed in real life... Thank you again.

Dr. A, This is an excellent way to learn - I like this project!