

# Graduate Nurse Education: Teaching Social Determinants of Health Through Simulation



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## Background

- The Institute of Medicine issued a report in 2016 urging healthcare educators to incorporate a framework for health equity and social determinants of health (SDOH) into the curriculum for educating healthcare professionals at all levels.
- The University of Pennsylvania Health System (UPHS) and the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing (Penn SON) have partnered to focus on educating primary care nurse practitioners to meet the needs of medically underserved patient populations.
- The goal of the study was to assess the level of nurse practitioner students' knowledge and confidence in understanding the needs of medically underserved populations and the impact of SDOH on overall health and wellness.

## Methods

- Didactic curricular content on SDOH and health equity was delivered to the students in the AGPCNP program.
- Students participated in a high fidelity simulation experience incorporating the concepts of SDOH, communication, and the linkage between social, physical and psychosocial wellbeing.
- Students completed a pre and post web-based survey to assess knowledge and confidence related to recognition and management of SDOH in the patient context, as well as, wrote a reflection note regarding the simulation experience.

## Results

SIMULATION PRE AND POST KNOWLEDGE SURVEY				
	Pre	Post	Diff	P Value
Knowledge Recognizing SDOH	3.2	3.6	0.4	0.0162*
Knowledge Assessing for SDOH	2.8	3.5	0.6	0.005*
Knowledge Incorporating Cultural Sensitivity	3.2	3.6	0.4	0.0355*
Knowledge Effective Communication	3.4	3.6	0.2	0.1857
N=22; (*) indicates statistical significance				

SIMULATION PRE AND POST CONFIDENCE SURVEY				
	Pre	Post	Diff	P Value
Confidence Recognizing SDOH	3.2	4	0.7	0.0033*
Confidence incorporating cultural sensitivity	3.3	3.8	0.4	0.0214*
Confidence improve cultural sensitivity	3.5	4	0.5	0.0125*
Confidence communication skills	3.5	4	0.5	0.0239*
N=22; (*) indicates statistical significance				

### Reflection Note: Emerging Qualitative Themes

- Importance of communication strategies when working with underserved populations
- Recognition of church, community and other supports to overall wellbeing
- Student appreciation for feedback on performance during the simulated experiences
- Importance of a safe home environment to overall individual well being

## Conclusions

- The new educational approach to incorporation of SDOH and health equity in the AGPCNP curriculum was viewed positively by the faculty and students.
- There are several advantages to a more integrative model for AGPCNP clinical education and the creation of a learning environment to help students develop a comprehensive understanding of the impact of SDOH on health and appreciate the intersection of social factors and health.
- The ultimate goal of this intervention is to prepare graduates of the AGPCNP program to meet the challenges of medically underserved populations, tailor care to each individual patient they will encounter, and seek post graduate employment in these areas of need.

## Bibliography

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