Improved Orientation for Adult Learners in the RN to BS Completion Program

SIA REPORT
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Background

- RN to BS Completion
  - Bachelor’s Degree completion program for Associate Degree- or diploma-prepared RNs
  - Increasing demand in healthcare for baccalaureate-prepared RNs
  - Winona State’s RN to BS Completion Program has grown very rapidly
    - From 75 students in Fall 2009 to 389 students in Fall 2014
    - Initially offered in Rochester only, expanded to La Crescent and Austin
  - Orientation was historically delivered individually through advising and admissions
  - With larger numbers and multiple locations, different approaches to orientation were needed
RN to BS Completion Students

- Primarily adult learners
- Working professionals
- Many have families
- Commuting to classes
- Often have been out of school for some time
- Technology is a big concern
  - Do not typically participate in the laptop program. Personally owned computers may not meet hardware and software specifications.
  - Often unfamiliar with D2L
  - May not be familiar with software such as PowerPoint
The Project: Three New Orientation Tools Designed for RN to BS Students

1. Orientation guide focusing on technology
2. Understanding Your DARS handout
3. RN to BS Completion Student Handbook
Project Assessment

- Student Survey
- Faculty Survey
- Student Focus Groups
- Discussions with Faculty
Project Outcomes

- Orientation Guide Student Survey Responses
  - All respondents who had viewed the Guide rated it as Very Helpful (50%) or Somewhat Helpful (50%).
  - 83% indicated they would recommend the Guide to new RN to BS students. The remaining 17% indicated that they might recommend it.
  - 55% had explored links included on the Guide, with 22% trying at least 1 link, and 33% trying 2 or more links.
Project Outcomes

- Orientation Guide Faculty Survey Responses
  - All faculty indicated they thought it would be helpful for new students (Strongly Agree 50%, Agree 50%).
  - All indicated that they would recommend the Guide to new students.
  - Faculty anticipated that systematic use of the Guide would:
    - decrease student frustration
    - decrease questions from students
    - improve student knowledge of expectations
    - help students understand the need for computer technology.
Project Outcomes

- Understanding Your DARS Student Survey Responses
  - All respondents who had viewed the DARS handout rated it as Very Helpful (53%) or Somewhat Helpful (47%).
  - 78% indicated they would recommend the handout to new RN to BS students. The remaining 22% indicated that they might recommend it.
Students also responded to specific questions about DARS and graduation requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Understanding Your DARS handout helped me understand:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>I already knew this</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to retrieve my DARS</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many credits I need to complete to graduate</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How my transferred credits are counted toward graduation</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to see when I have completed the required WSU credits (Residency Requirement)</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to see the number of 300 &amp; 400 level credits I have completed</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where to look for the number of 300 &amp; 400 credits I still need</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Outcomes

- DARS Handout Faculty Survey Responses
  - All faculty indicated they thought it would be helpful for new students (Strongly Agree 25%, Agree 75%).
  - All indicated that they would recommend the DARS handout to new students.
  - Faculty anticipated that systematic use of the handout would:
    - increase clarity for students on transfer credits and credits needed
    - improve understanding of the upper division elective requirement
    - help students be more responsible for their own DARS and course completion
Project Outcomes

- RN to BS Handbook Student Survey Responses
  - All respondents who had viewed the handbook rated it as Very Helpful (56%) or Somewhat Helpful (44%).
  - 94% indicated they would recommend the handbook to new RN to BS students. The remaining 6% indicated that they might recommend it.
Students also responded to specific questions about Nursing Department and university policies included in the handbook.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The RN to BS Student Handbook helped me understand:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>I already knew this</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum grades required in nursing courses</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health policies and immunizations required within the RN to BS Completion Program</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR Certification Requirements</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance requirements for practice experiences</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University and Nursing Department policies regarding academic integrity</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University policies related to student conduct</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Outcomes

- RN to BS Handbook Faculty Survey Responses
  - All faculty indicated they thought it would be helpful for new students (Strongly Agree 75%, Agree 25%).
Next Steps

- Student focus groups continue to identify orientation as a need.
- Discussion with faculty produced several recommendations for revision and improvement of materials for next year.
- All materials will be posted on the Nursing Department website.
- Materials will be distributed by email to students, and a schedule for timely distribution is being developed.