



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.

Project Outcomes

- ▶ Students also responded to specific questions about DARS and graduation requirements.

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

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.

Project Outcomes

- ▶ Students also responded to specific questions about Nursing Department and university policies included in the handbook.

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

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