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**Enhancing Student Research Skills:
Information Literacy Stipend (Spring 2012)**

FINAL REPORT

Course: Nursing 591: Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing

Student learning outcomes related to information literacy: **ACHIEVED**

1. The student will use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
2. The student will articulate and apply initial criteria for evaluating both the information and its sources
3. The student will validate her/his understanding and interpretation of information through discourse with other individuals.

Assessment plan to determine how learning outcomes will be evaluated:

1. Complete a Political Action Project
The student will choose a state or federal legislative issue, which affects health care, search the literature on the topic and read extensively developing a comprehensive familiarity with the topic and all points of view. The student will then write a persuasive letter to an appropriate legislator from his/her legislative district taking a position on the issue and providing a valid argument for why the legislator should vote in favor of (or support) the student's position. In addition, the student must submit to the faculty member at least five (5) reputable references that she/he read regarding the topic, including a paragraph summary about each reference.

Rationale: The practice of advanced practice nursing requires nurses to be professionally and politically active and to identify issues and resolve problems that affect health and health care. It is important for an advanced practice nurse (APN) to gain an appreciation of and insight into how society interacts with individuals and groups in relation to health concepts and issues that affect global and societal health in general. As an expert nurse the APN will be expected to be a knowledgeable contributor to political and community issues.

All students identified a state or federal legislative issue that affects health care, researched the topic and wrote a persuasive letter to the appropriate legislator from their legislative district. The students also researched and submitted an annotated bibliography

of at least 5 (five) references about the topic.

2. Complete an Alternative Health Care Assignment

The student will select an alternative health care modality, review the professional health and lay literature regarding the modality, and prepare a three page outline about the modality with regard to assigned criteria. The student will evaluate the lay literature, identifying sources given if any, and indicating if the facts presented are accurate and whether or not certain information has been omitted.

Rationale: APNs deal on a daily basis with patients who ask about alternative health care modalities. Inasmuch as there is a growing body of knowledge about alternative health care practices, APNs need to be able to evaluate critically this literature.

All students researched the lay and professional literature on an assigned alternative health care modality and prepared a three-page evidence-based, critical outline about the modality to share with classmates.

3. Complete a Cultural Diversity Project.

The student will review the literature to develop a familiarity with an assigned culture, focusing on such concepts as traditional definitions of health and illness, traditional methods of healing, current health care problems, and issues for advanced practice nurses to consider when dealing with individuals of that culture. Following the literature review, the student will write a 5-6 page paper addressing the previously mentioned concepts. In addition, the student will present the findings to the class and class discussion will ensue comparing and contrasting various cultures.

Rationale: Given our increasingly diverse country, it is essential for APNs to develop a familiarity with other cultures, and furthermore to have an understanding with regard to how to glean reliable culturally specific information.

All students reviewed the literature on an assigned culture, prepared a paper about the culture and participated in a class discussion comparing and contrasting various cultures in relation to definitions of health and illness and traditional methods of healing.

Projected timeline: Spring 2012 **COMPLETED**

Library faculty member: Bonnie Oldham

Bonnie Oldham attended the first class and provided instruction

on accessing databases. She also created a course research page and served as a resource for students during the assignments.