

TITLE: Career Intention of Baccalaureate Student Nurses: Understanding the Barriers, Enablers and Predictors towards Public/Community Health Nursing

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ABSTRACT: Background: In a climate where population and community focused care is being championed, the nursing workforce remains skewed to acute care. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing has set parameters for nursing education to better prepare new graduates to work in PH/CH settings. Less certain is the degree to which nursing students are attracted to these settings and the role nursing education has in shaping career intention. Aims: To determine initial career intention of student nurses; to assess whether nursing education variables predicted career intentions towards public health/community (PH/CH) nursing. Method: Cross-sectional survey targeting baccalaureate and accelerated baccalaureate nursing students across Oregon; analysis utilized standard descriptive statistics and multiple linear regression. Results: Students reported most interest in pursuing acute care nursing. Program learning or clinical placements were not related to intention to pursue a PH/CH now or in the future. The strongest predictor of PH/CH career intention was career intention when starting nursing school followed by current or prior work in PH/CH settings. Conclusion: Students enter nursing school with largely fixed intentions. Educators need to develop greater pre-nursing outreach and understanding of the drivers towards PH/CH nursing in order to build curricula and passion for PH/CH nursing.

OBJECTIVE(S): 1: Describe the current and future career intentions of student nurses towards public health and community health nursing. 2: Evaluate the career intention predictors and barriers towards public health and community health nursing. 3: Discuss potential strategies to promote career intentions of student nurses towards public health and community health nursing
