

Facilitating Political and Policy Awareness for Advanced Practice Nurses

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Outline

- Background political activity
- N530 course outline
- Political astuteness tool
- Changes in political action

N530 Policy and Practice Perspectives in Advanced Nursing Practice

➤ **Course description**

- This course is an introduction to policy development in health care and advanced nursing practice within the context of the larger society. The course provides a basis for understanding political forces, including government, industry, and economic constraints, that shape nursing and health care delivery. Strategies by which nursing influences development of health policy through political involvement are considered.

N 530 Course Competencies

- **Course competencies**
- Upon the successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:
- Analyze the influence of interest and ideologies on the health care system.

Analyze the role of government in planning and regulating the health care system.

Compare and contrast the roles of nursing and other groups plan in influencing the political process at all levels of government.

Articulate how nurses roles within an interdisciplinary health care arena contributes to health care policy.

N 530 Course Student Objectives

➤ **Student objectives**

➤ *In order to meet course objectives, students will:*

➤ Use a theoretical perspective for the analysis of policy issues and trends in nursing and health care.

➤ Analyze the influence of competing ideologies on health care and its delivery.

➤ Analyze roles played by nurses and others in influencing the political process at all levels of government.

➤ Interpret sociopolitical patterns of control of nursing and health care.

➤ Analyze major local, national, and international health policies that have historical or contemporary influence on advanced professional practice.

Course Activities

- Unit 1 Provides a framework for policy and politics:
 - Political Self –assessment
 - Critique of a health policy issue

Sample Political Self-Assessment

- Yes or no...
- I know of at least two health-related issues that are currently under discussion at the state or national level?
- I have provided testimony at a public hearing on an issue related to health?
- I know where the local headquarters of my political party are located?
- I have written a letter to the editor or other piece for the lay press speaking out on a health-related issue. (Clark, 1999)

Unit 2: Knowing the process, using the power

- Resource used: Feldman, H. R. & Lewenson, S. B. (2000). *Nurses in the political arena: The public face of nursing* . New York: Springer
- Who are nurse policy makers?
- What issues and policies did they support?
- Lessons learned

Unit 3: Policy and politics in government

➤ Activities for the unit:

- Complete an analysis of a bill, law or regulation that impacts the issue from unit 1
- Write a letter to your legislator that asks for their support or opposition to the law that you identified

Unit 4: Policy and politics within the community and professional nursing organizations

- Interview a nurse leader, community activist, lobbyist, legislator, policy analyst, or health executive, or
- Attend and evaluate a health policy meeting, or
- Evaluate professional, community or philanthropic organization

Unit 5: Strategies for implementing health policy alternatives

- Power point that synthesizes the learning activities through an issue analysis:
 - Taking the issue from unit 1
 - Problem/background
 - Stakeholders
 - Policy goals/objectives
 - Evaluation of Policy alternatives
 - Recommendation
 - Collective, Coalitions, Media Strategies
 - Summary

Additional Selections from the Pre and Post Political Self-Assessment (Clark, 1999)

- I am registered to vote.
- I know where my voting precinct is located.
- I voted in the last general election.
- I voted in the last two elections.
- I recognized the names of the majority of the candidates on the ballot at the last election.
- I was acquainted with the majority of the issues on the ballot at the last election.

Self-Assessment continued

- I stay abreast of current health issues.
- I belong to the state professional association.
- I participate (committee member, officer, etc) in that association.
- I know the name of my state representative from my district.
- I know whom to contact for information about health-related policy issues at the state or federal level.

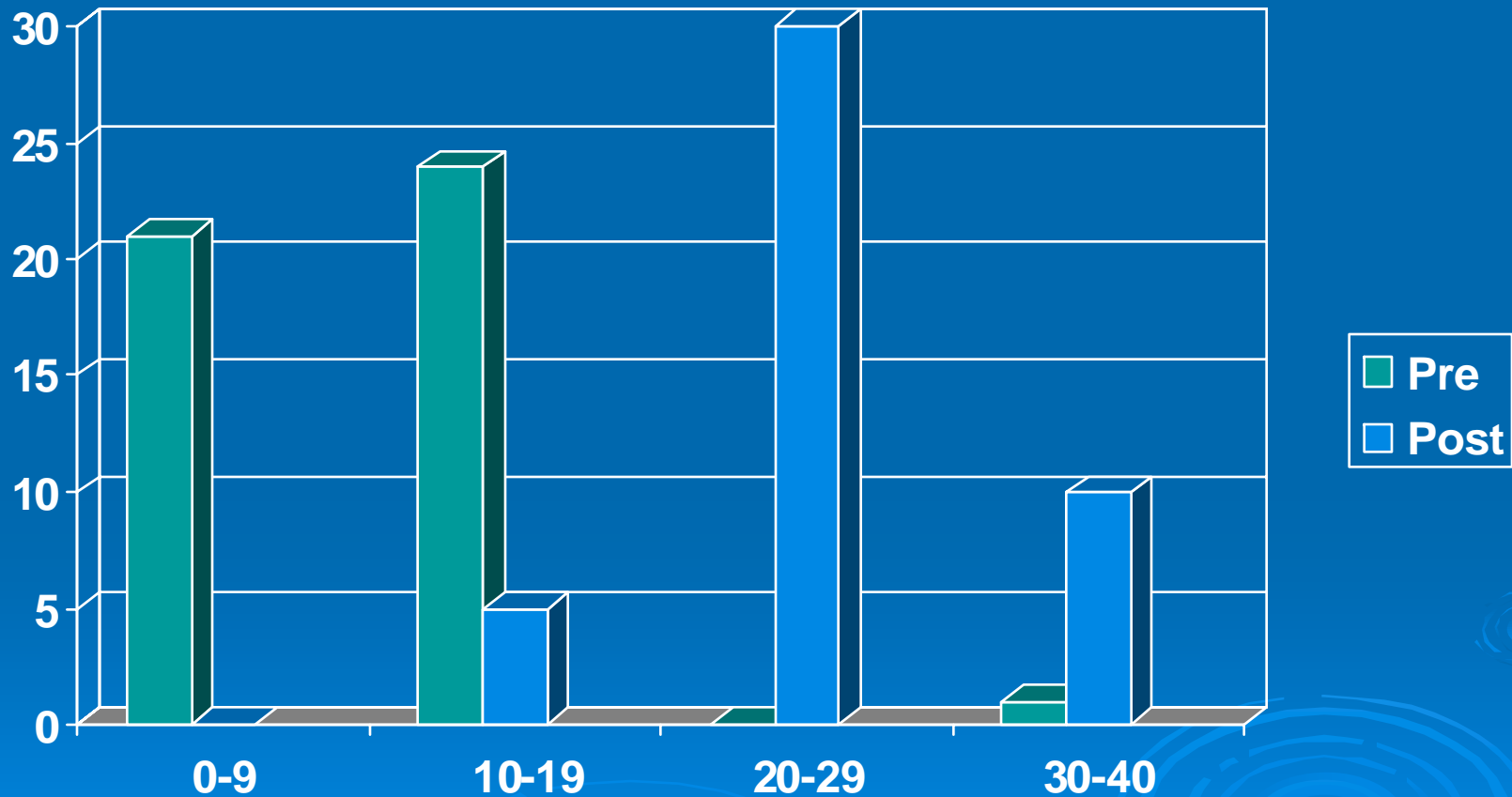
Spring 2007-Scoring Self-Assessment

Test	Low score/%	Highest score/%	Mean
Pre-Test n=46	2/5%	30/75 %	10.4
Post-Test n=45	14/35%	32/80%	25.1

Change in Scores

- The scale for students to score themselves:
 - 0-9 points totally politically unaware
 - 10-19 points slightly aware of the implications of political activity for nursing
 - 20-29 points shows a beginning political awareness
 - 30-40 points politically astute and an asset to the profession
- Every student increased their pre to post-assessment score
- Pre-test to post-test change in percent of scores increased (t test 16.74 was significant at $p=.05$)

Pre and Post Scores, Spring 2007



Final Activity Personal Reflections

- “Why didn’t they teach us about politics and policies when we were undergraduates?”
- “Every student should have this course!”
- “I never voted before this class. Not only did I register and vote, my husband and my mother did too.”
- “I dreaded taking this class, but now I am glad I learned about writing to my legislator.”

Other political assessment tools

- Beyond Red vs. Blue

<http://typology.people-press.org/typology>

- Political Behavior Skill Survey

<http://www.garyranker.com/html/political-behavior.htm>

Additional References

- Clark, M.J. (1999). *Community nursing: Dimensions of community health nursing*. Stamford, CT: Appleton and Lange.
- Feldman, H.R., & Lewenson, S.B. (2000). *Nurses in the political arena: The public face of nursing*. New York: Springer Publishing Company.
- Mason, D. & Leavitt, J. K., & Chaffee, M.W. (Eds.) (2007). *Policy and politics in nursing and health care*, (5th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: W. B. Saunders.