

# **RN'S IN THE CLASSROOM: SUPPORTING EACH OTHER FOR SUCCESS**

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# Purpose of the Study

- **Evaluate the factors that influence RN-BSN students to complete degree requirements for the BSN at a university in the southeastern United States using the hybrid curriculum format.**

# Evaluation Measures

- **Critical Thinking ATI**
- **Course evaluations**
- **Exit interviews**
- **University college base exit exam**
- **Alumni program evaluation (6 months)**

# Demographics: Characteristics

- **Gender**
- **Race**
- **Prior education**
- **Age**
- **Computer resources**
- **Prior on-line experiences**
- **Current employment**
- **Years in practice**

# Demographics: Data

- **20 female, 5 male**
- **22 white, 3 black**
- **All hold RN license**
- **6 hold bachelors or advanced degree in another field**
- **Mean age 41**
- **Range in age 24-59**
- **95% had home computer**
- **25% had prior on-line learning experience**
- **100% currently employed in nursing**
- **Years of experience in nursing: 1-36 yrs**

# ATI Critical Thinking Test Outcomes for Cohort 1

Category	Entrance				Exit		
	Mean	Generic	BSN		Mean	Generic	BSN
Composite	75.8	ns	ns		79.2	ns	<.002
Interpretation	78.1	ns	ns		78.1	ns	<.002
Analysis	81.6	ns	ns		91.2	ns	<.001
Explanation	77.4	ns	ns		84.2	ns	ns
Inference	58.5	ns	ns		57.9	ns	ns
Evaluation	79.6	ns	ns		82.9	ns	<.000
Self-regulation	92.1	ns	ns		94.7	ns	ns

Adjusted critical value of  $p = .007$ .

# ANALYSIS OF ATI SCORES

- **No difference between the Gateway students and the generic students**
- **Students in both programs of study had to meet the same academic standards**
- **Gateway students showed a higher ability to Interpret, Analyze and Evaluate when compared to the typical student nationally**

# EXIT SURVEY

**Cohort 1 participants rated the overall program as Very Good (4 out of 5) and of Very Good quality (4 out of 5) using a Likert scale.**

# FACTORS RATED AS MAJOR OR VERY IMPORTANT TO SUCCESS

- **Time to complete program**
- **On your schedule**
- **Cohort relationships**
- **On-line/classroom**
- **Library on-line**
- **Blackboard use**
- **Scheduling of classes**
- **Computer support**
- **Opportunity to learn more about nursing**

# Exemplars

**“I loved being able to work full-time and go to school, to complete the program in a reasonable time, and to meet other nurses working in other capacities other than my own.”**

**I think the camaraderie, support and yes – the personal drive to accomplish this achievement speaks very highly of our cohort and ourselves.”**

**“Since starting this program, my eyes have been opened to the difference between a BSN and ADN nurse. I used to never think there was a difference but now I would be the first to say there is a tremendous difference, this has truly been an eye opener.”**

**“When I began this program, my intent was to advance professionally. I had no idea that I would advance personally as well. I now realize that I am a professional. It has taught me to push for the best and what I once thought was unobtainable is possible. I plan on returning to school to pursue a master degree in nursing so that I can teach others about this great profession.”**