

간호원의 위치에 대한 전망: 교육부문

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Entry into nursing practice as of 1985 requires a bachelor of science degree in basic nursing.

The new 4-year requirements have promoted better quality nursing instructors and made more available broader and more varied nursing programs such as speciality nursing; continuing education after graduation; seminars and workshops; tutoring; better video and audio/visual equipment for instruction; and clinical instructors are assigned to smaller groups of 10 students to achieve more effective teacher-student ratios.

There is mandatory continuing education for post-graduates to re-license for practice.

More journal articles and more research is now done by nurses themselves versus earlier information shared and given only by doctors. This makes available more professional educational information shared between nurses.

All these things are available through nursing education in America. However, Asian students encounter special problems in attempting to reach their nursing educational goals...

Attending School in America

The greatest problems encountered by foreign students attending school in America, are many and to some students, are impossible to overcome. In my opinion they fall into the following categories:

First there is language. Although most

students learn English as a prerequisite to graduation, they will find this is not the English that is commonly spoken by the average American student. The slang, idioms; facial expressions, and ways of expressing ideas will all be foreign and mainly incomprehensible. These things cannot be pre-taught, for you will find that they are very short-lived and are soon replaced by other more confusing terms and gestures.

They must be learned as they occur; not to know them is to be an outcast. Not only are they used in social interaction but you will find they will infiltrate into the classroom and become a part of the teaching.

Another outstanding problem encountered by the foreign student, especially by the female student, is assertiveness. This is the hardest thing for a foreigner, especially an Oriental female.

In the Oriental culture the female is taught to be humble; to respect and obey the teacher; and to seek harmony with your peers. The foreign student will find these attitudes to be looked on with scorn.

In American education confrontation is to be sought; and is considered a mark of learning—a person is graded on their outspokenness; directness; on classroom confrontation with peers and teachers; on not always agreeing with what is taught and getting up and disagreeing with the teacher's ideas and even

with the writings they may be studying.

The student finds the traditional ways of gentleness, good manners, and willingness to acquiesce are viewed negatively by their American Counterparts.

Their needs for cooperation and mutual dependence will be viewed as over-dependence; their over-acquiescence and humbleness will be viewed as incompetence; and their tolerance and quietness will be viewed as a lack of assertiveness.

The next big problem that the foreign student will encounter is in the amount of outside reading required in American schools. For most foreign students this is an almost insurmountable problem. There is the large amount of reading accomplished in a short period of time; and at the same time ideas must be changed from English to the thinking in the language of the student. The student finds he is always behind and never able to completely catch up.

A problem the student will face, that will face, that will be completely unheard of, is what the teachers describe as "the ability to SYNTHESIZE". To synthesize is to solve the problems as they occur; and not in the same set and prearranged solution. You must be able to correct or solve the problem by using your power to see more than one way of solving the problem and coming up with the most suitable answer under the existing circumstances.

Another problem common to all foreign students is loneliness. This is mostly because of language barriers and cultural differences.

Financial difficulties are also contributing factors, since scarce finances limit social activities.

What are some of the solutions we can use

to aid us in attending schools in America?

Let us take the language question. A solution one person used was as follows:

Use a tape recorder as much as possible: this will allow you to review what was said and to try to recover some of the things you might have missed.

Listen to the radio and look at TV to learn about how Americans express themselves.

Watch how they use facial expression and the hands to explain themselves.

If possible try to live with an American family. Possibly get a job with a family with children. This will help you to see how the children express themselves to their parents and to their peers.

Read as much as possible-this will help you to increase your reading speed and comprehension skills.

Go to movies and socialize as much as your finances allow.

The assertiveness problem will be the hardest problem to overcome. There is no way I can express how essential this is to your being able to successfully finish your course of study.

You will be graded on your amount of aggressiveness; outspokenness; classroom participation; and overall-what the Americans call "self-confidence and verbal aggressiveness". You will also find your amount of assertiveness will be a determining factor in how you are treated by your peers and will enter into all your transactions, large or small.

The large volume of reading material the student must accomplish is a very big problem. In the traditional Asian educational system, the emphasis is on memorizing details of certain important subjects. In the United States reading widely and superficially is required

with synthesizing or critiquing required with each subject read.

For this problem I cannot give an easy solution. The student must just change the way he approaches the method of covering reading material.

Seek tutorial help and observe closely how your peers do their work even to the point of using some of their discarded or improperly done work to get an idea of how book reports are expected to be written.

The lifestyles of the Americans will be another headache to the student. Asians celebrate a holiday by getting together. Americans celebrate by getting away. American women go to bars and drink and smoke. Asian women do not. American women are more aggressive; Asian women are submissive.

These are traits that cannot be changed easily, but are things people will judge you by.

How Schools Can Prepare Foreign Students Before they Enter a Nursing Program in the United States

1. To prepare the student adequately before arriving in the U.S.A., schools can provide a detailed list of program requirements including clinical pre-requisites for nursing courses:

Example-As one student put it, "Knowing about program and school expectation before coming can help me prepare myself on what they expect and how to apply it to meet my country's needs".

2. Correspondence with the school is reinforced if the student has contact with a faculty member:

Example-a. As one student said, "Prior contact by mail with an academic advisor before arrival would help greatly about

courses; course pre-requisites and requirements etc."

b. Corresponding with a student already in the program could be of help as well.

3. Most students feel that they lacked adequate knowledge of the school's nursing program before coming to the U.S., but that it could be achieved if the schools were to take a more active role in helping the student prepare for their programs.

4. For students already in the program, detailed post-arrival information and orientation would be helpful. An introductory course that describes the nursing system and its terminology would be a way to achieve this or perhaps delineate the role of the nurse in the U.S.A.

5. Provide introductory classes on nursing law; legal liabilities and responsibilities to the patient; and patient advocacy-because the foreign student is not familiar with the nursing role in the U.S.

In addition to thorough orientation, continued counseling and support will be helpful.

Preparation Con't

6. Choose an advisor familiar with the students' background and one who could anticipate foreign student problems. An advisor who has traveled a lot internationally will also be helpful to foreign students choosing courses appropriate to their needs and in directing the program of study to make it as applicable as possible.

The advisor role can be enhanced, according to students, by a supportive and culturally sensitive faculty; by the school soliciting student feedback; being flexible to their needs; and offering speed reading and writing courses to help foreign students keep up with other

students academically.

Conclusion The recommendations:

1. Adequate preparation of student before coming into the program cannot be emphasized enough, for many students find themselves struggling with courses that pre-requisites or presumed knowledge of theories in nursing they never heard of.

2. We feel the greater the congruence between the student's and the school's expectations the more learning is likely to take place and the easier it will prove to be for everyone.

Summary

Going to school in America can be a great experience, but there are many problems that must be overcome. How successful you are

depends on how much you apply yourself to overcoming the obstacles that will face you.

I have tried to familiarize you with what some of these problems might be and I hope I have given you some insight into how you might work to overcome these problems.

When I went to school in America there was nowhere I could turn for help except to my family.

Now there are nursing societies and associations where a person can go and get help and counseling.

These organizations can help you in your school work; can provide consulting services; English tutorial assistance; classes to aid you in taking nursing tests; comradeship; and just a place to relax and meet people who speak your own language-and this could be most important in a foreign country.