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Cultural awareness as a significant student-learning outcome for nursing programs

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Nursing educational programs are designed to prepare nursing students to provide safe patient care in current health care environments. The Office of Minority Health (2012) mandated 14 principles to guarantee the appropriate standards for diverse individuals. Current and future nursing professionals must be trained to provide appropriate services for all individuals. Minimal research has focused on the graduating associate degree-nursing students to determine if a relationship existed between the use of an integrated cultural curriculum and the nursing student's level of cultural awareness. The associate degree-nursing program accreditation, statistical and benchmark reports mandated the integration of diversity content, local, national and worldwide perspectives in the curricula. A correlational approach was implemented to determine if relationships existed between the integrated cultural curriculum and level of cultural awareness in graduating associate degree nursing students in a large metropolitan area, such as in Los Angeles. The outcome of this study may encourage academic affairs leaders to emphasize cultural awareness as a significant student-learning outcome for nursing educational programs.

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