



Integrating the Environmental Domain into Nursing Education

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Objectives

- Describe the Environmental Domain of the Taxonomy of Nursing Practice
- Discuss the rationale for integrating the Environmental Domain in nursing curricula
- Discuss a curriculum plan of study using the Environmental Domain
- Articulate strategies for successful inclusion of Environmental Domain in the curriculum plan



Taxonomy of Nursing Practice

- Development of the Taxonomy of Nursing Practice
- Domains of the Taxonomy
 - Functional
 - Physiologic
 - Psychologic
 - Environmental



IV. Environmental Domain

- Diagnoses, outcomes, and interventions to promote the environmental health and safety of individuals, systems, and communities



Environmental Domain Classes

- Health Care System
 - Social, political, and economic structures and processes for the delivery of health care services
- Populations
 - Aggregates of individuals or communities having characteristics in common
- Risk Management
 - Avoidance or control of identifiable health threats



Rationale for Inclusion of the Environmental Domain

- Holistic approach to care
- Supporting Documents
 - Accrediting Agencies
 - American Nurses Association
 - International Council of Nurses
 - Institute of Medicine
 - Nursing Emergency Preparedness Coalition
 - State Nurse Practice Acts
 - NCLEX Blueprint



Environmental Domain in Curriculum

- Re-examine the meaning of environment in nursing program constructs
 - Mission
 - Philosophy
 - Conceptual framework
 - Program and course outcomes



Environmental Domain in Curriculum

- Consider content placement within the curriculum
 - Level competencies
 - Course content
 - Learning activities
 - Evaluation methods



Environmental Domain in Curriculum

Environmental Domain Classes across Courses

Standardized Nursing Language

- Nursing Diagnoses
- Nursing Outcomes
- Nursing Interventions

Environmental Domain in Curriculum

- Fundamentals of Nursing
 - Basic nursing concepts
 - Nursing roles
 - Nursing process
 - Taxonomy of Nursing Practice
 - Nursing Classification Systems

Environmental Domain in Curriculum

- Health Assessment
 - History taking
 - Health screening
 - Home assessment
 - Risk assessment
 - Role of culture

Environmental Domain in Curriculum

- Pathophysiology/Pharmacology
 - Health effects of environmental contamination
 - Cellular injury
 - Infectious injury
 - Unintentional/intentional injuries
 - Medication toxicity and antidotes

Environmental Domain in Curriculum

- Adult Health
 - Environmentally caused diseases
 - Cancer
 - Neurological conditions
 - Mass casualties
 - Geriatric considerations



Environmental Domain in Curriculum

- Maternal-Child Health
 - Environmental influences on the fetus and young child
 - Environmentally caused diseases
 - Lead exposure
 - Asthma
 - Ear infections
 - Reproductive capacity

Environmental Domain in Curriculum

- Mental Health/Community Health
 - Environmentally induced stress
 - Disaster response
 - Environmental hazard prevention, recognition and control
 - Environmental justice
 - Legislative and regulatory influences
 - Referral to specialist practitioner or public health agency



Environmental Domain in Curriculum

- Leadership and Management
 - Environmental health hazards and the nurse
 - Agency environment
 - Health care system
 - Health policy development

Environmental Domain in Curriculum

- Nursing Research
 - Environmental health research relevant to nursing
 - Evidenced based practice
 - Environmental safety
 - Environmental health



Strategies for Successful Integration

- Planning change
- Winning faculty support
- Benefits and barriers
- Electronic and other resources



Barriers to Integrating the Environmental Domain

- Concerns about crowded curriculum
- Lack of priority for the Environmental Domain
- Environmental Domain may be unfamiliar
- Requires a new way of thinking about nursing for both faculty and students



Benefits of Integrating the Environmental Domain

- Holistic assessment of clients
- Broader perspective for practice
- Structured framework for addressing the Environmental Domain
- Development of a cognitive map
- Consistency among courses



Conclusion and Future Directions

- Further development of nursing language for the Environmental Domain
- Implications for improving community based care
- Technology
- Cost



Conclusion and Future Directions

“The nursing profession must take a leadership role in advocating environmental protection, illness prevention, and community awareness of environmental health hazards” Mancino, 1985

