Identifying Spiritual Needs for Baccalaureate Nursing Students in Multi-campus Jesuit University

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to contribute to the body of knowledge regarding identification and support of spiritual needs of nursing students, which could have implications for distance, on-line, and on campus students in undergraduate and graduate programs across the health science disciplines.

Significance In the recent past, attention has been spent on addressing spiritual well-being and the impact it can have on both physical and mental health of university students; however, there is very little research aimed at identifying the spiritual needs of nursing students. Faculty need to ensure opportunities for students to discuss and identify spiritual needs, which can be developed and/or enhanced.

Methods: A phenomenological approach will be utilized to identify themes and study the concept of spirituality from the students’ perspective. Focus group recordings will be analyzed to identify themes that suggest strategies and/or interventions to assist students with the development and/or enhancement of their spiritual growth. Using this data, a tool will be developed to monitor spiritual growth of nursing students. The ultimate goal is to monitor all Health Science students’ spiritual growth.

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