

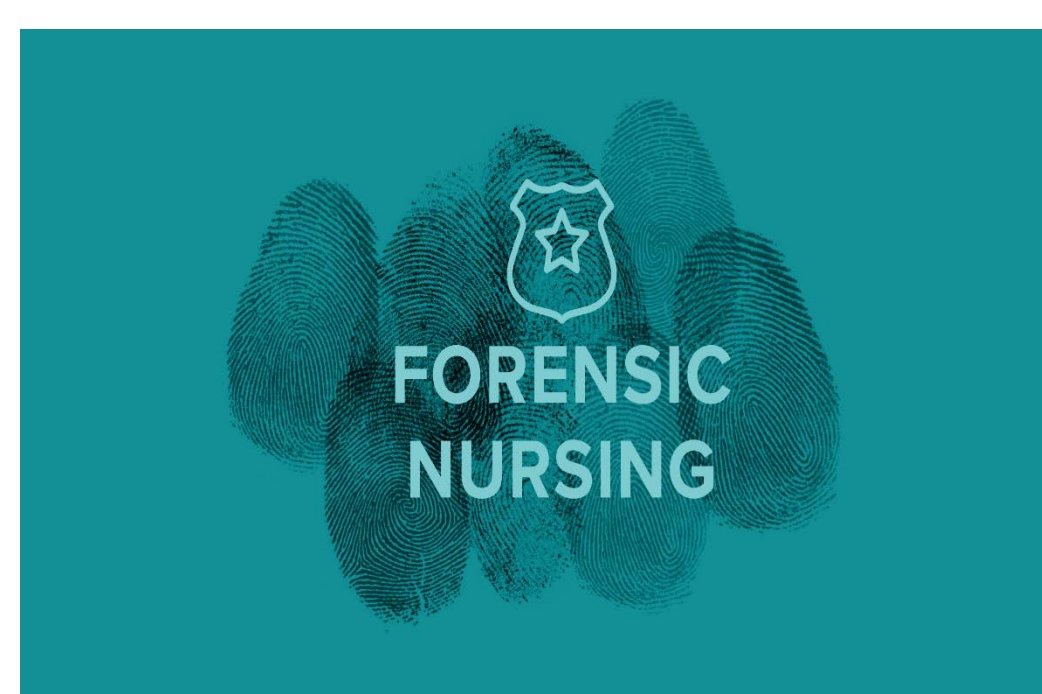


Incorporating Forensic Education for Undergraduate Nursing Programs

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The Problem

- Typical undergraduate nursing programs have curriculums consisting of bedside education topics with a focus on passing state boards.
- Forensic nursing is a growing nursing specialty, but often undergraduate students are unaware of it.
- There are many reasons nurses choose to leave bedside nursing, one major factor is burnout.
- Implementing a forensic nurse workshop within undergraduate nursing programs would allow for awareness of forensic nursing as a non bedside specialty for students in the future.



Background

Nurse Burnout

- Unsafe nurse to patient ratios
- 54% of nurses experience compassion fatigue
- Can lead to unsafe situations for patients and nurses
- Other remedies for nurses burnout besides change of career path.

Types of forensic nurses include:

- SANE (sexual assault nurse examiners)
- Forensic Death investigators/Medicolegal death investigators.

(Peters, 2018)

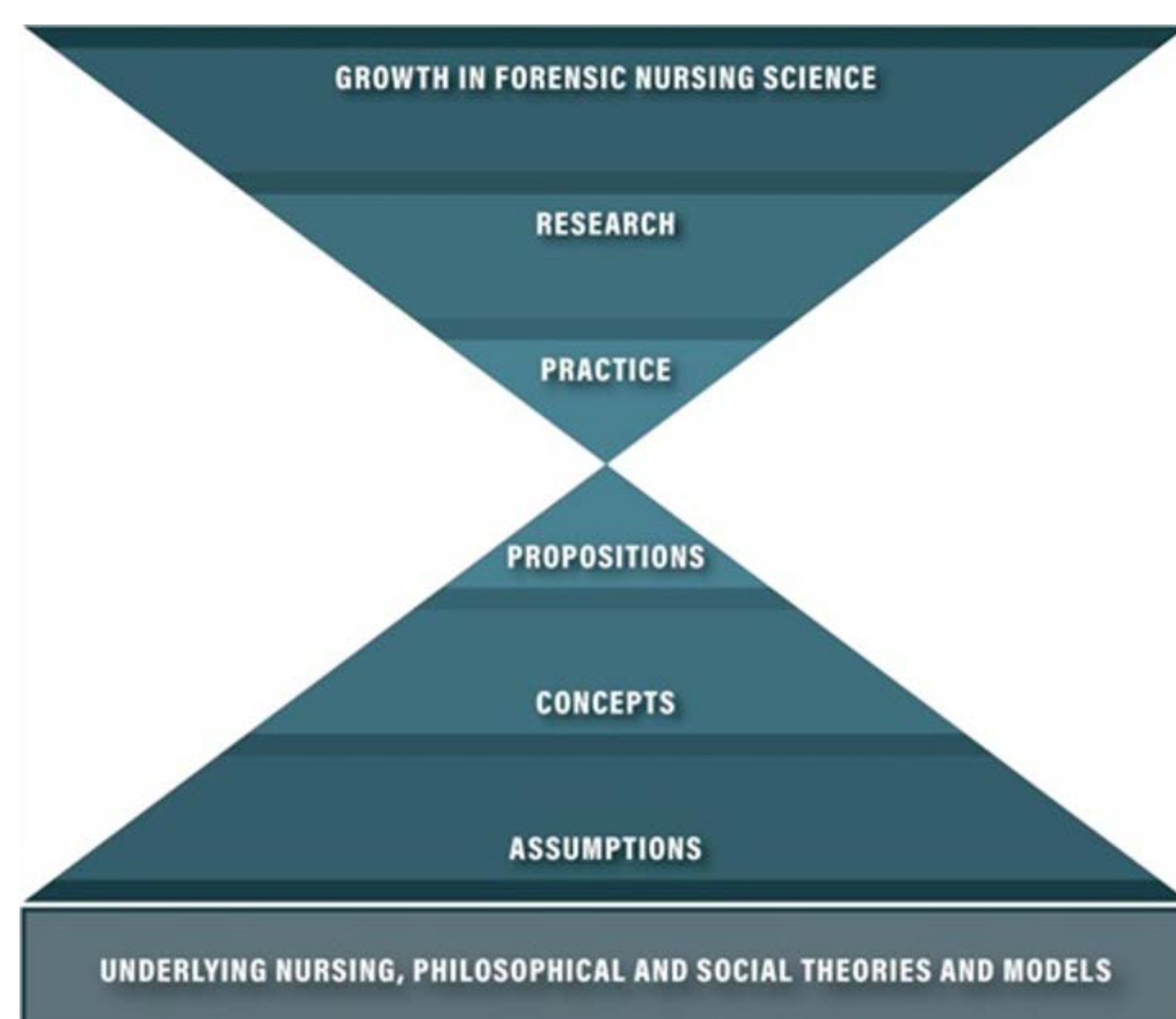
Aims/ Objectives

- The main objective is to implement a forensic workshop and clinical shadowing experience into undergraduate nursing programs.
- With this workshop available to students, the hope is to raise awareness of forensic nursing as a career in the future.

Methods/ Research Limitations

- This research is limited as this is a proposal
- The curriculum change would include one workshop to take place before graduation. This will include a job shadowing experience.
- Workshop will include SANE nurses, death investigators, and a medical examiner to explain their roles in the field of forensics and to allow students to ask questions.
- After the class is taken, both students and teachers will be given a survey about the class. Students will continue to be surveyed at one year intervals.

Theoretical Framework



(Valentine, 2020)

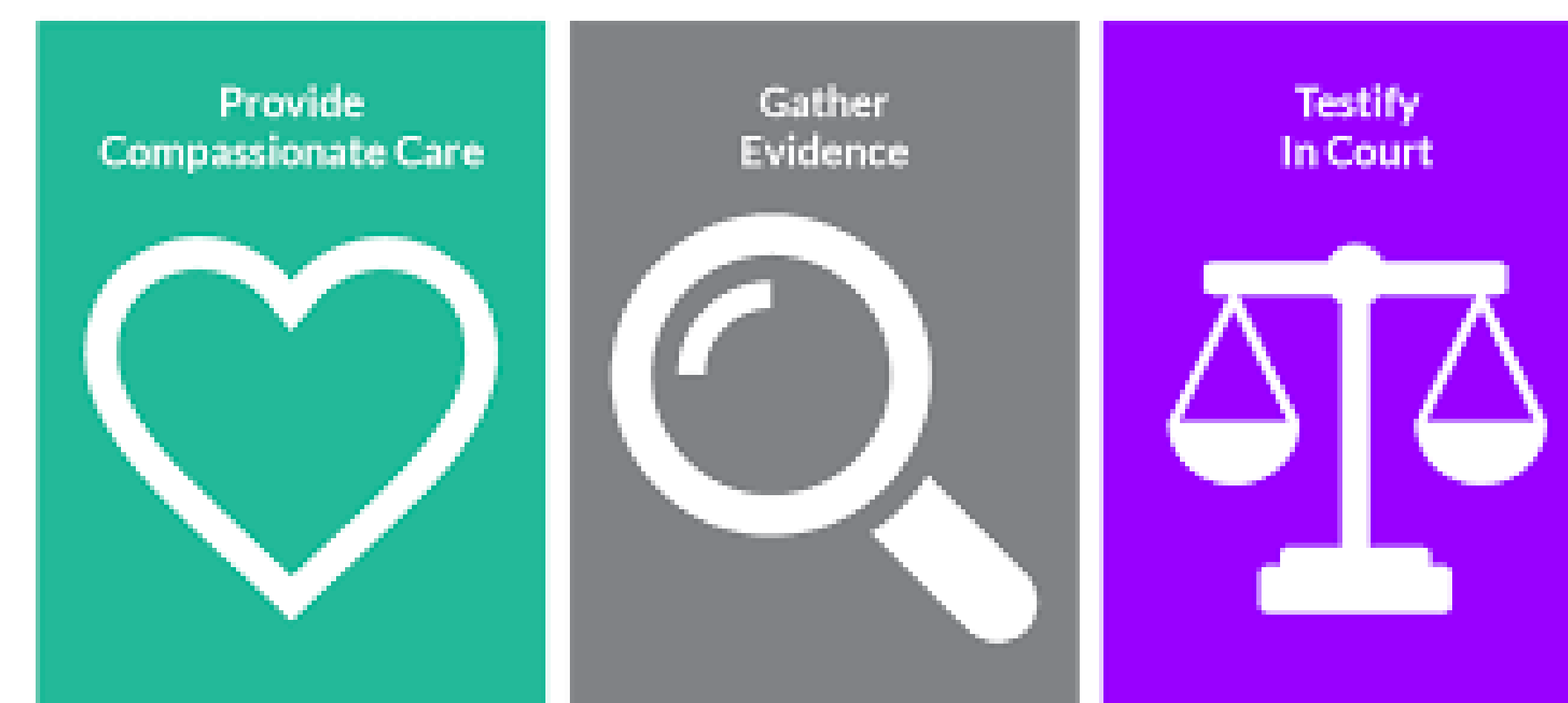
Forensic Nurse Career Growth



- The growth rate for forensic nurses is predicted to be an increase of 7% between 2019 and 2029 (forensicscolleges.com).
- Forensic Nursing (like bedside nursing) has very fair pay rates that depend on position, education, location, and experience.

Relevance to Nursing

- Patient advocacy is possible away from a bedside setting.
- There is room for compassionate care in the field of criminal justice.



Conclusion

- In conclusion, nursing is an amazing career path and it is not limited to bedside nursing, therefore nursing education should not have that limitation either.
- While it's important to not overwhelm future nurses, it is also important that they are at least minimally aware of the possibilities that lie before them as nurses.



References

Peters, E. (2018, July 2). *Compassion fatigue in nursing: A concept analysis*. Wiley Online Library. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/nuf.12274>.

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Valentine, J. L., Sekula, L. K., & Lynch, V. (2020). Evolution of Forensic Nursing Theory—Introduction of the Constructed Theory of Forensic Nursing Care: A Middle-Range Theory. *Journal of Forensic Nursing*, *16*(4), 188–198. <https://doi.org/10.1097/jfn.0000000000000287>