The Feeling about the Nursing Education Program among Pre-Nursing and Nursing Students: A

Photovoice Approach

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Photovoice is a research method used to evaluate the views of a group of people through a series of pictures. With this on-going photovoice project we will travel through the minds of pre-nursing and nursing majors at Georgia State University (GSU) to get a snapshot of the differences between groups.

The School of Nursing (SON) at GSU is ranked the number three nursing program in Georgia. Over 90% of the students that graduate from the SON with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing pass the NCLEX (the national examination for nursing in the US) on the first try. Many of the students' scores are 15–20% than the overall national score. With such a great program, the competitiveness of being accepted into the SON is extremely high. The acceptance rate is about 25%, with more than 500 students applying yearly. Anecdotally, pre-nursing students perceive the person sitting next to them as their competition, while the nursing students identify the person next to them as their greatest ally. To assess the similarities and differences between the two groups, a total of 20 pre-nursing and nursing students (10 in each program) will be shown a series of four photographs that depict higher level nursing students in different environments. They will be asked the same three questions about each picture: 1) How does the picture make you feel? 2) How does it relate to you as a pre-nursing or nursing student? 3) Do you find this photo to be more encouraging or intimidating, and why?

So far, six pre-nursing students and five nursing students have participated in the study and the preliminary data is already showing a difference in themes. For many of the nursing students, the answers to the questions contain adjectives such as encouraging and exciting, while the adjectives for the pre-nursing students seem to be intimidating and anxious. Within the upcoming weeks, more students will be interviewed and the data should give us more of a glimpse into the minds of both pre-nursing and nursing students.