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# Sigma's 30th International Nursing Research Congress

# Literature Review: Using Time-On-Task to Enhance Teaching Effectiveness and Student Outcomes

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The desire and goal of nurse educators is to teach students the information and skills that they need to safely practice nursing. As science and technology has advanced, the content in nursing curricula has increased to the point of saturation. Educators are now responsible for incorporating new content, which frequently occurs without other content being removed. Cognitive and physical overload is an issue that affect student education and ultimately patient care. This is a system level issue that requires system-level supports be developed to assist educators and students. This presentation will highlight the findings in current literature that not only discuss the problem of overload, but identifies proactive solutions based on the establishment of time-on-task metrics.

## Methodology for the Literature Review

The databases ProQuest, Cinahl Complete, Sage Premier, PubMed, and the Cochrane library were searched with the key words: Time-on-Task, credit load, instructional design, cognitive load, student workload, curriculum, and content overload. The search was limited to the English language, the last five years, higher education, and peer reviewer content.

# Results/Findings

Nursing education is typically structured around credit hours. Student learning in class, online or face-to-face, is calculated as 1 credit hour = 1 faculty directed hour per 15 weeks + 2 student directed hours or 45 hours of work per week and 6.4 hours for a 7-week accelerated course. Failing to pay attention to the amount of work students will have to complete in and out of class can lead to overloading students and set them up for failure. Even when students complete the work given, cognitive and physical overload inhibits their ability to reflect, retain the information and apply the information to clinical thinking and problem-solving.

Principles of instructional design state that instructional activities directly influence students' learning. Students' brains must be able to accept information, translate it to understand and then move it to memory for later application. Typical strategies emphasize use of short-term memory, which prohibits students getting to deep learning, automation and muscle memory.

Time-on-task is the measure of the amount of time that students spend on learning exercises. Strategic use of measuring time-on-task in courses can assist faculty and program leaders in improving teaching and learning effectiveness. Educators must consider factors such as content readability, preparation time, motivation towards engagement and task difficulty. Faculty members can be supported by having set

benchmarks to guide learning activity creation and approved metrics, based on scholarly evidence, to assess adherence.

# **Evaluation of Methodology and Data**

Metric setting using time-to-task is limited in nursing literature. A literature review is needed to confirm usefulness of practices of today's educators. Instead of overwhelming our students with tasks and information, we, as educators, must find a way to make the learning manageable, meaningful and engaging. Going to the literature for time-on-task will be helpful for educating our future nurses.

## **Implications for Nursing Education**

The goal of nursing education is to develop professional nurses of tomorrow. It becomes difficult to accomplish this task when the learners of today are so varied and different from those that came before them. Educators must be cognizant of the realities of barriers to nursing education. If educators can facilitate learning that is manageable and engaging the learner will be interested and successful in learning. Educators need to consider not just the tasks on hand, but the time it takes to complete the tasks. Learners today desire a more meaningful, time cognizant format to learning.

#### Title:

Literature Review: Using Time-On-Task to Enhance Teaching Effectiveness and Student Outcomes

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#### **Abstract Describes:**

Completed Work/Project

## **Preferred Presentation Format:**

Oral

### Applicable category:

Academic

#### **Keywords:**

Cognitive load, Time-On-Task and Workload

#### References:

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# **Abstract Summary:**

Nurse educators strive to teach students information and skills necessary to practice safely. With advances in science and technology, nursing curricula content has reached saturation. Cognitive and physical overload affects student education and patient care. This presentation highlights findings on overload and identifies proactive solutions based on time-on-task metrics.

#### **Content Outline:**

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Methodology for the Literature Review

## III. Results/Findings

- 1. Credit Hour
- a. Credit hour and Learning Time
- b. Planning Courses
- 2. Principles of Instructional Design
- a. Learning process
- b. Learner needs
- c. Curriculum Design to facilitate
- 3. Workload
- a. Cognitive
- b. Physical
- 4. Time-On-Task
- a. Readability, Writing, Motivation, Engagement, Preparation, etc.
- b. Measurement
- c. Bench-marking
- 6. Evaluation of Methodology and Data
- 7. Implications for Nursing Education

## **Topic Selection:**

Advances in Education

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