NURSING CASE STUDY
LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

Longwood University is one of three winners of the 2024 Benchworks Assessment and Impact Award in nursing for high survey scores on learning outcomes related to core nursing knowledge. The nursing department's approach to integrating diverse learning experiences, addressing identified gaps, and enhancing student success demonstrates a strong commitment to refining core competencies. This comprehensive strategy effectively prepares students for the complexities of the nursing profession, ensuring they are well-equipped with essential knowledge and skills.

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Benchworks has provided valuable data regarding our program since our first graduating class in 2013. We have been able to deliver high-quality nursing education that continues to yield very strong outcomes. This success can be directly attributed to continuous curricular evaluation that occurs with utilization of information received from Benchworks.

KIMBERLY LITTLE, PhD, RN, WHNP-BC, CNE | *Chair & Professor of Nursing*

HOW THEY USED DATA

DATA-DRIVEN INITIATIVES

LONGWOOD
U N I V E R S I T Y

Illuminating Gaps in Results

Longwood University used data to identify and address gaps in student learning. Feedback from students highlighted deficiencies in the textbooks, leading to the integration of supplementary materials to better support core nursing knowledge. In response to data revealing insufficient coverage in certain areas, Longwood expanded the gerontology course from one to three credit hours. This change included a deeper dive into critical topics such as polypharmacy, effective communication techniques, and neurological changes related to aging. By systematically enhancing the curriculum based on data insights, Longwood ensured that students received a comprehensive education that equipped them with the essential skills needed for effective clinical practice.

Sharing Data with Stakeholders

Longwood University placed a strong emphasis on sharing data with key stakeholders, including alumni, donors, the Board of Visitors, and current students. This practice supported a culture of transparency and facilitated continuous curricular evaluation. By disseminating results from their Benchworks surveys and other assessments, Longwood engaged with its community to ensure the nursing program remained responsive to evolving needs. This commitment to incorporating diverse perspectives helped maintain high standards in core nursing knowledge and ensured that the curriculum evolved in alignment with both student and industry needs.

Focused Support on Student Success

Data revealed higher attrition rates among freshmen and sophomores. To enhance student success and retention, the nursing department created a new Success Specialist position in fall 2023. This role, held by a nursing faculty member, provides personalized support to students who fall below progression standards. The Success Specialist focuses on test-taking strategies, work-life balance, time management, study skills, and wellness, aiming to address individual needs and improve student outcomes. By addressing these individual needs, Longwood aimed to improve student outcomes and retention, demonstrating a proactive approach to enhancing student success.