

Administrative Issues Journal

Volume 3 Issue 3 *CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS: NOVEMBER 7th-8th, 2013*

Article 4

8-2013

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Recommended Citation

Samuel, Hephzibah (2013) "Students' Experiences and Expectations of Inquiry Based Learning (IBL) in Nursing Education," *Administrative Issues Journal*: Vol. 3: Iss. 3, Article 4.

Available at: https://dc.swosu.edu/aij/vol3/iss3/4

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Students' Experiences and Expectations of Inquiry Based Learning (IBL) in Nursing Education

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The Inquiry Based Learning (IBL) approach derives ultimately from the Problem Based Learning (PBL) model. This was originally developed in Canada at McMaster University, to be used in their medical school as a way of overcoming learner passivity and linking theory and practice. Nursing Education needed a more flexible curriculum which would help to develop lifelong learning skills and show the importance of competence in practical skills. To achieve these objectives, the use of student-centered learning methodologies such as IBL was encouraged.

Many students have difficulty in adapting to IBL. They feel very insecure and uncertain of the whole process. Students attending the program are from different cultures and their previous exposure to, and experiences of, the learning process are very different. This needs definite attention if the goal of the institution is to give the best learning experience to its students.

The results of the study will allow insight into the current experiences that the Nursing students undergo during the IBL process and what are some of their actual expectations of what IBL should be. These findings will help the IBL facilitators to make any changes that may be required to enhance their students' learning. This will contribute to greater satisfaction on the part of both the students and the facilitators.