![CACN - California Association of Colleges of Nursing]

POSITION STATEMENT
IN SUPPORT OF INNOVATION IN NURSING ACADEME
November 2, 2015

Position:

The California Association of Colleges of Nursing (CACN) is committed to supporting innovation in nursing academic programs and curriculum in both undergraduate and graduate studies. The innovative approach focuses on the use of pioneering pedagogies that deeply engage learners. An innovative model of curriculum delivery should leverage state-of-the-art educational technologies to thoroughly integrate classroom and real world exercises that lead students to identify the evidence base for practice; solve meaningful clinical and workplace problems; and demonstrate their commitment to shaping the future of nursing. To accomplish this goal, leaders in academia and practice must collaborate in identifying and implementing models for nursing education that will assure that nurses are adequately prepared to manage the high acuity of patients, complex technology, diverse care settings, new delivery models and extensive changes in policy that will advance characterize healthcare in the 21st century. CACN supports innovation in nursing education as an essential component of the nursing education process.

Rationale:

Authentic learning is a pedagogical approach that situates learning tasks, enabling learners to develop robust knowledge that transfers to real-world practice (Herrington, Reeves, & Oliver, 2014). As an instructional model, it supports the design and implementation of complex and realistic learning tasks common to nursing education, particularly in the clinical and simulated experiential learning situations (Hansen,& Bratt, 2015; Haraldseid, Friberg, & Aase, 2015). New web-based technologies provide both cognitive tools and delivery platforms for dissemination and implementation of authentic learning experiences that are yet to be explored (Green, Wyllie, & Jackson, 2014; Liaw et al., 2015). Nurse educators must show greater flexibility in employing innovative methods using authentic learning pedagogy that promotes student interactivity and engagement in the learning process. Through this innovation, we improve nursing education, create opportunities for progression to higher levels of nursing education, leverage technology for more efficient and effective instruction, and focus on learning outcomes (Klein-Collins, 2011).

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