Perceptions of new baccalaureate graduate nurses regarding the adequacy of nursing education and preparation for professional practice

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A story
Changes in healthcare

- Policies
- financing
- shortages
- uncertainties
Research question

What are the perceptions of new baccalaureate graduate nurses regarding the adequacy of their nursing education in preparing them for professional practice?
Literature Review

- Many factors
- Teaching strategies
- Creative clinical
- Distress and discouragement if feeling unprepared
Study design

- Non-experimental, descriptive, survey
- Survey composition
- Likert scale
- Validity/ reliability
Sample and protocol

- Internal grant funding
- IRB approval
- Population: Nurses licensed in NC past 2 years
- Random sample of 296
- 20.4% return rate
- Mailing with cover letter
Results

The sample

- Average age 27.3
- 90% female
- 94% full time

Clinical practice areas for the sample:

- Critical care: 40
- Med-surg: 30
- Specialty: 20
- Skilled: 10
## Average ratings of survey responses regarding perceptions of preparation of new baccalaureate nurses for practice.

1=very poor, 2=poor, 3=fair, 4=good, 5=excellent

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Basic clinical skills that you now need to use in your area of practice as a registered nurse</td>
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<td>2. A strong knowledge base for practice regarding the disease states you encounter typically in your clinical area</td>
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<td>3. Ability to understand, administer, and evaluate the effectiveness of medications that you commonly administer</td>
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<td>4. Skills to manage the technology necessary to perform your duties</td>
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<td>5. Skills to provide holistic (body, mind, spirit) care</td>
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<td>6. Critical thinking abilities as applicable to clinical reasoning</td>
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<td>7. Communication skills to interact effectively with patients, providers, colleagues</td>
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<td>8. Physical assessment skills</td>
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<td>9. Skills to understand nursing research and utilize research findings</td>
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<td>10. Organizational skills</td>
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<td>11. Leadership skills</td>
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<td>12. Problem-solving abilities</td>
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Open-ended questions

Skills perceived as necessary, but not covered well:
- clinical skills, especially intravenous therapy and initiation of intravenous access
- lack of preparation for working in specialty areas
- lack of leadership skills
- lack of communication skills

Perceived as covered, but not that necessary for practice:
- the depth of coverage of physical assessment skills.
Discussion

- Overall: favorable perceptions
- Consistent with the literature
- Critical care
- Limitations
Conclusions

- Continually assess relevance of programs
- Clinical experiences
- Mentoring and transition programs
THANK YOU!