



Cross-Cultural Nursing
Experience in
Ghana –
Student
Perspectives

Laurentian University
School of Nursing

 **Laurentian University**
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Conflict Disclosure Information:

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Title of Presentation: Cross Cultural Nursing Experience

We have no financial or personal relationships to disclose



Objectives

1. To portray student experience of nursing abroad in a developing nation through discussion of classroom and clinical experiences
2. To explain the importance of pre-departure preparation and reorientation (Ryan & Noland, 2002; Town on Education Abstract, 2009; Akin, Coker & Akintola, 2003; Hargrave, 1991).
3. To present how this course was a valuable aspect of the nursing curriculum and how it explores the influence of culture and geography on people's health (Zinn, Peltz, Wang & Cross, 2007; Sullivan et al, 2003; Mehrhoff, Hargrave & Partridge, 2005)
4. To present future possibilities and recommendations for this course

Course Description

- ◆ Course title: NURS 2816: Cross Cultural Nursing - International.
- ◆ 36 hours of in class preparation (pre-departure)
- ◆ 2 weeks/100 community based clinical hours in rural community settings of Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa.
- ◆ Students participated in health based screening as well as health education and assisted in client consultation.
- ◆ Completion of reflective journals
- ◆ In class reorientation
- ◆ Class presentation of their learning plan and recommendations.




Classroom

Positives

- Development of group dynamics
- Personal development
- Open forum for discussion/brainstorming
- Thought process development

Negatives

- Long hours and plenty of new content
- No opportunity to apply concepts learned in class
- Development of learning plans

Clinical

Positives

- Application of learnt skills (i.e. cultural competence)
- Greater sense of community
- Logistics
- Community connections
- First hand exposure
- Development of a broader world view

Negatives

- Poor organization
- Conflicting boundaries; scope of practice
- Infection control standards
- Translation
- Personal objectives
- Lack of sustainability

Pre-departure



Reorientation

Future Recommendations

- 36 hours be spread out, rather than condensed into one week
- Advertising & Cost Reduction
- Sustainability projects (Leffers, Jacome 2011; Shepherd et al. 2012; Leffers 2009)
- Profit based organizations not ideal – avoid "voluntourism" (Shepherd et al. 2012)
- Opportunities for interprofessional participation (Shepherd et al. 2012)



Final Thoughts



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