Post-pandemic Nursing Education Preparation and Online Education

Dr. Stephanie Wilsey | Dr. Jerrod Poe | Dr. David Guthrie

Portage Learning

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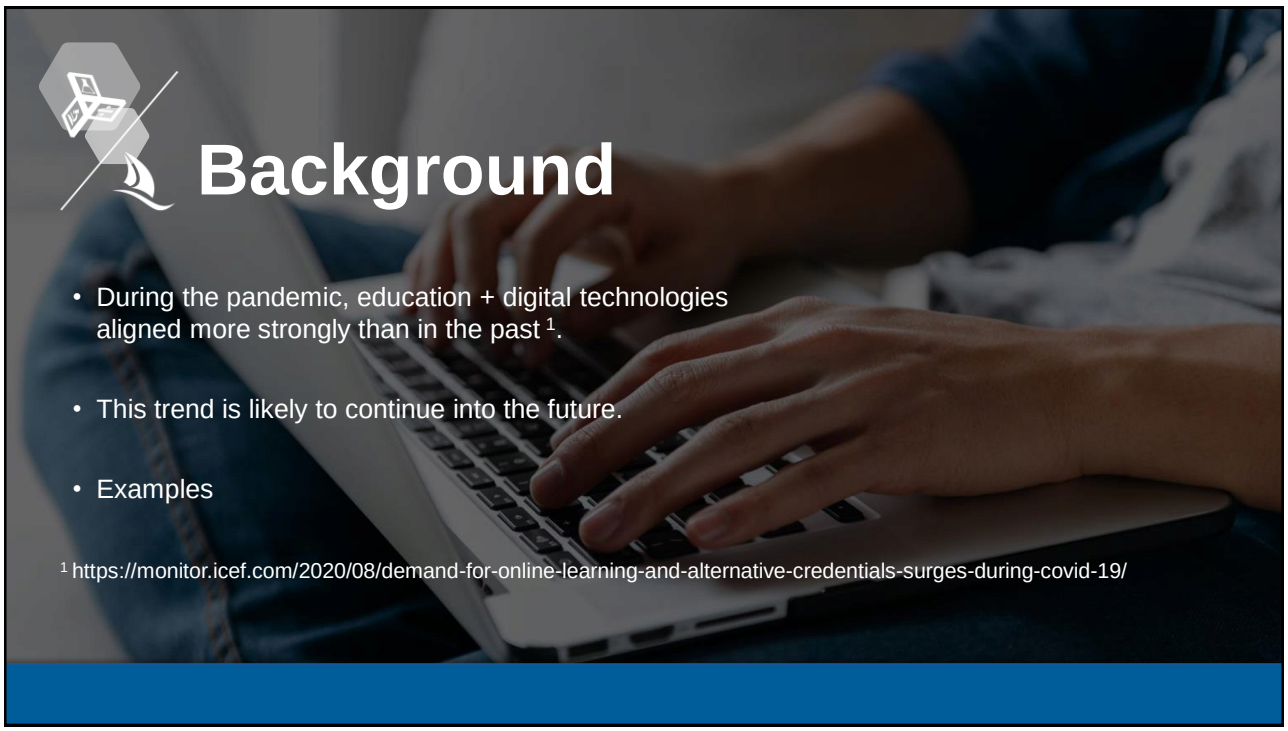

Background

- During the pandemic, education + digital technologies aligned more strongly than in the past [1].
- This trend is likely to continue into the future.
- Examples

[1] https://monitor.icef.com/2020/08/demand-for-online-learning-and-alternative-credentials-surges-during-covid-19/

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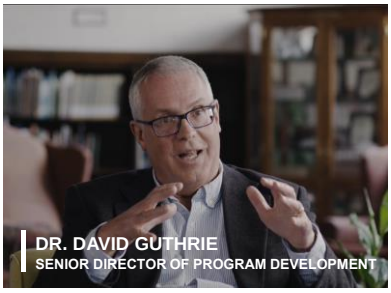
Introductions



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"Pandemic Disruption: A Call for Innovation[a]"

- Challenges in preparation for nursing practice pre-pandemic
- Inflexible curriculum and teaching strategies
- "Hurried and impromptu" online learning during the pandemic, "without time for modification of teaching methodologies to reflect best practices for the virtual classroom."
- Issue with "digiti[zing] past modalities" instead of building online courses from the ground up.

[a]***The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing,*** **"Disrupting Nursing Education in Light of COVID-19." Weberg, Chan, & Dickow. January, 2021.**

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How can educational providers see the digital space as an opportunity to promote **excellence** and **innovation** in nursing education?

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Example

50 Years of Distance Learning:
Portage Learning

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Approach to Online Courses

- Asynchronous.
- Pre-requisite and Co-requisite courses.
- Nursing coursework, cohort experiences, clinicals are handled in-program.
- Flexibility for the early coursework.
- Interactive technologies.

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Evidence-Based Education

End of Course Surveys
(N= 3,485. April- June 2022)

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Challenges (Revisited): A Call for Innovation

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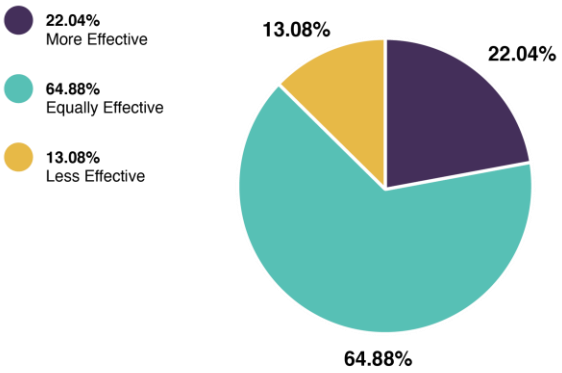
Most Desirable Aspect of the Course

*"I love the **flexibility** that Portage Learning provides me. I am hoping to switch careers and require prerequisites for acceptance to the program. Since I have a full-time job, in-person classes at specific times are hard to coordinate with my busy schedule. With Portage, I am **able to learn whenever is best for me**, which might be in the middle of the night or on weekends. Therefore, **I can make the most out of my education**, since I can learn at times when I am not stressed and instead **am focused and fully committed**. I like the set-up of the course, with having both lecture videos and reading material, as well as some interactive lab components. This makes the subject easy to understand and the learning experience enjoyable through diversified channels. Would definitely recommend this program to others, especially if your schedule is as busy and chaotic as mine!"*

65.17%
The online and asynchronus delivery model

Comparisons to Face-to-Face Classrooms

How did your online experience with this course compare to a course taught in a classroom format?



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Flipping the Narrative

Instead of re-creating face-to-face content online, building online from the onset.

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Instead of re-creating face-to-face content online, building online from the onset.

- What if online education wasn't a second choice, chosen solely for convenience, but a means for **excellent pedagogical approaches**?
- The challenge to meet student need while ***encouraging*** and ***supporting*** students so that they achieve **far more than what they think possible**.

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Excellence & Innovation

Excellence:
We pledge to provide extraordinary education in exemplary ways.

Portage Learning believes that strategy and integrity guide all that we do and are just as important as achieving end goals. We are dedicated to the highest quality in our academic offerings, relational approaches, and productive endeavors.

Innovation:
We embrace change with creativity, expertise, and intentionality.

We understand that change is inevitable, so we actively anticipate the dynamic trends in student learning, technology, and professional development. Doing so allows Portage Learning to nimbly pursue changes as opportunities without compromising our mission or vision.

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Excellence & Innovation

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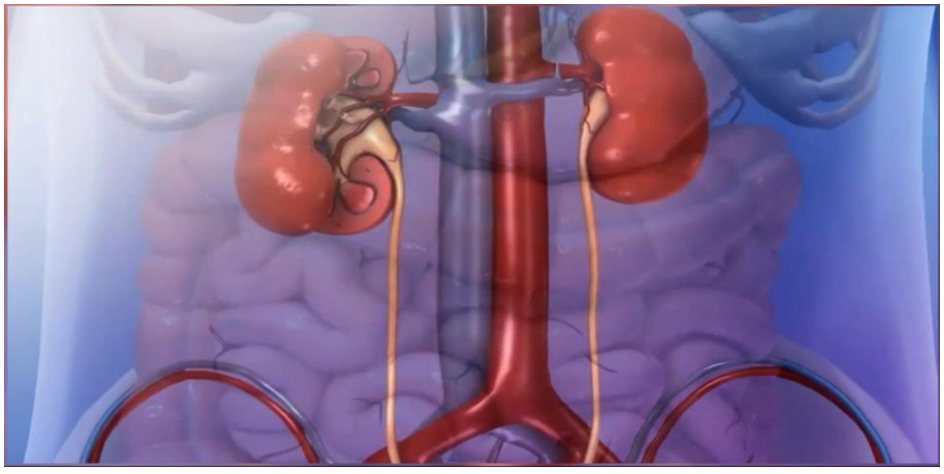
Excellence & Innovation



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Excellence & Innovation

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Words to Know

Download the full list PDF file here

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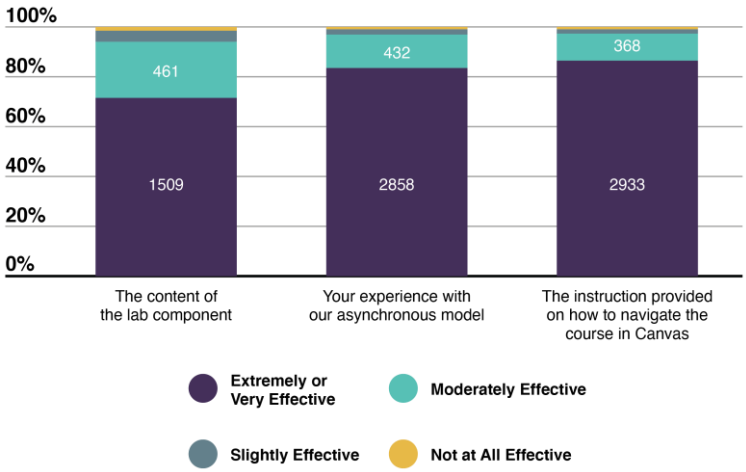
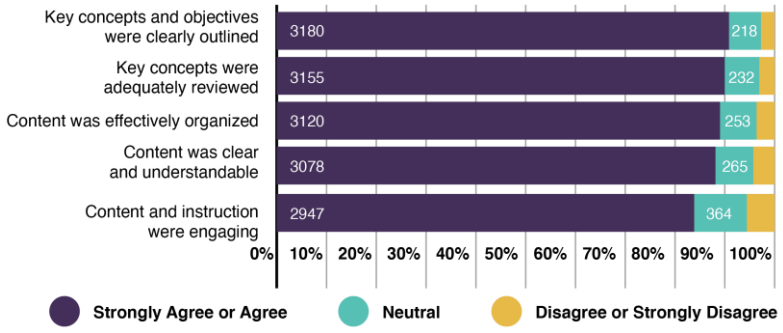
Student Experience



Course Content



Student Outcomes

8.9 out of 10 students reported that they gained an overall confidence in and knowledge of their course subject.

8.9 out of 10 students reported that they learned skills and knowledge valuable for achieving success in their education and future career.

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Limitations

- Self-report data
- **Student Focus:** Education as transactional (what students want vs what they need)

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Conclusions & Implications for Practice

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Conclusions

- The future of post-pandemic nursing education will continue to be at least partially online.
- The importance of harnessing technologies to remove student barriers and promote academic success.
- Letting excellence and innovation guide curricular and administrative choices.

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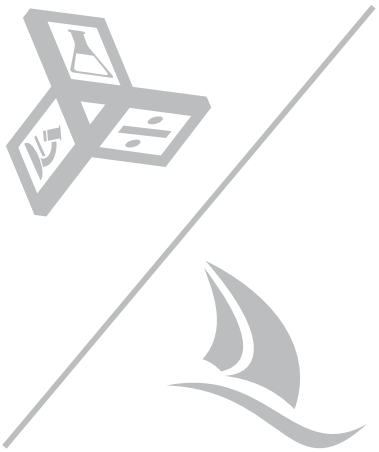

Implications for Practice

- Asynchronous vs. Synchronous: Pros and Cons
- Are assumptions about online vs. face-to-face correct?
- What does embracing excellence look like in the online space?
- What are the advantages of having an optimistic and positive approach toward changes in higher education and nursing preparation?

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Thank You!

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