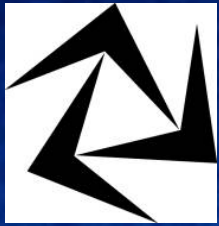




**Disaster Preparedness: Giving
Voice to the Nurses of the
Future**

Disaster Preparedness: Giving Voice to the Nurses of the Future



**RYERSON, CENTENNIAL AND GEORGE
BROWN COLLABORATIVE NURSING
DEGREE PROGRAM**

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Why disaster preparedness?

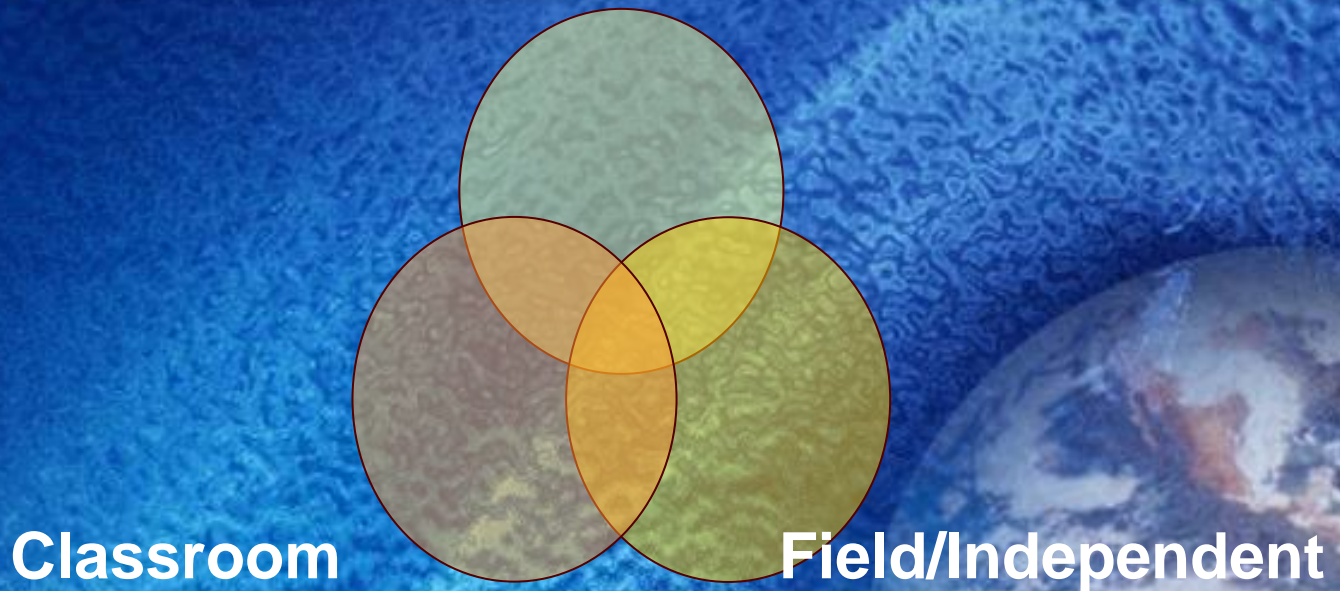
- Recent World Events
- The Role of Nursing Within the Community
- College of Nurses Standards and Guidelines

“The College expects nurses to assume actively their obligation as self-regulating health care professionals by providing nursing care during an epidemic.”

Fact Sheet, Practice Guideline, Preparing for an Influenza Pandemic; www.cno.org/pubs/pandemic.html retrieved, April 24, 2008

The Program: Merging the three dimensions

IDEAS Program



The Program: IDEAS

IDEAS: Interprofessional Disaster/Emergency Action Studies

A collaborative project

- Centennial College
- The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences
- Ryerson University Collaborative School of Nursing
- University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine
- George Brown College

The Program: Classroom & Field

- Time Commitment
- Placement Requirements
- Relevance of material to curriculum
- Selection of participants

Conceptual Development

- Setting the stage: defining disaster
- Critical analysis
- Beginning to understand roles
- Communication processes

Individual/Local planning

- Creating home disaster plan: If quarantined; If evacuate; How prepared are you?
- Local and Campus Planning: Guest speakers
- Planning Principles: Integrating the Determinants of Health. What is a Communication plan?

Critical exploration

Critical analysis of a disaster:

- Is it possible to plan?
- What about vulnerable populations?
- How was this demonstrated with Hurricane Katrina?
- What is the role of nursing in disaster management?
- What about the concepts of primary health care, social marketing, determinants of health?

Multidisciplinary roles

- Panel discussion – Ryerson safety officers
- Toronto Fire Services: Platoon Chief guest speaker
- Group interviews of people responsible for disaster preparedness and response
- Relationships with students on-line and at live simulations/mock disasters

Communication in disaster response

- Communication skills

“... a big thing we learned through the course was the importance of communication”

Student comment – Post Program March 29, 2008

- Newspaper article assignment led to critical analysis of media
- Fire chief exemplified an excellent communicator and reinforced the essential nature of communication and decision making

The role of the nurse

- Guest from RNAO highlighted the nursing competencies and roles
- Disaster preparedness in relation to the CNO Entry to Practice Competencies

Ethical issues

- Vulnerable populations
- Decision making challenges
- Role of the Nurse/role of the Student Nurse
- Volunteers vs 'recruited'

Global Perspective

- Academic literature
- Critical exploration of a Global disaster
- Model WHO: Viewing Health form a Political- Social-Economic Perspective: Post-conflict Processing of Child Soldiers

Real life experiences

- Two Mock disasters – organized by IDEAS Program
- Interviews of key Toronto organizations who have Disaster Plans i.e. Police, Ambulance, TTC
- Preparation of disaster plans for U of T residences

Benefits of this program

- Setting a foundation for new knowledge development in disaster preparedness
- Giving voice to nursing students in disaster management; interdisciplinary communication
- Raising awareness of disaster preparedness: personal & professional
- Provide student nurses with the skills set to become leaders in disaster planning and management

Challenges

- Teaching a Pilot Project: new relationships; new technologies
- Interdisciplinary communication
- Teaching from a theoretical framework without the personal experience
- What skills do the students need?

Serendipitous Learning

- Voicelessness of nurses – changed the focus of the course
- Nurses have the role/skills base to provide a leadership role in disaster planning & management
- There is a need to develop a critical mass of prepared nurses

Lessons Learned

- We need to position nurses to be leaders in disaster planning and management – the need to develop interdisciplinary awareness & communication skills
- The student populations are engaged and ready to learn the necessary skills for disaster management
- There is a need to empower our nursing students to have a louder ‘voice’
- Curricular implications – where does this Program fit?

Thank You

- Questions?
- Comments?