



Lippincott[®] Client Cases: a transformative approach to build clinical judgment

Case Study: Seattle University College of Nursing



Nursing school profile

As one of the most prestigious nursing schools in Seattle, Seattle University College of Nursing is dedicated to the formation of professionals ready to meet the evolving healthcare needs of a global community.

Overview

In the College Factual® 2024 rankings for the best US schools for nursing majors, Seattle University came in at number 21 nationally. The ranking puts Seattle University in the top 5% of the country and ranks the school as number one in Washington. With more than 500 students enrolled in the undergraduate program, the student population is ethnically diverse.

Notable accreditations and credentials

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice, and Advanced Practice Nursing Immersion programs at Seattle University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Challenges faced

Short-term savings versus long-term outcomes

Like many schools, Seattle University College of Nursing faced a familiar dilemma that involved navigating the tension between short-term financial savings by delaying the adoption of new technologies and the long-term costs of quality of education and student outcomes. With an eye toward limiting students' expenses for digital-learning tools, the school had mostly relied on traditional textbooks.

But even though it's generally recognized that there are up-front costs associated with adopting new technologies, the long-term benefits — both for students in terms of better preparation for practice and for the institution in terms of maintaining a higher standard of education — far outweigh the initial investment.

The urgency to replace outdated methods gained momentum at Seattle University as the long-standing education-practice gap widened across nursing education. "Despite decades of recognition, the gap persisted and was only exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic," observed Amy Walker, PhD, RN, and one of the champions for Wolters Kluwer digital solutions which she uses within her pediatric and pharmacology courses. "The pandemic made it more difficult for new nurses to learn on the job, and in many instances, we saw the lack of preparedness."

A traditional nursing education typically focuses on teaching nursing skills and tasks — like how to take a blood pressure — but lacks teaching the critical-thinking and decision-making skills essential for practice readiness. That emphasis on skills and tasks, as opposed to thinking, has resulted in graduates who are technically competent but who lack the confidence in their clinical decision-making. Seattle University found themselves asking whether they were giving adequate cognitive practice with patient care before simulations and clinicals.

500+

enrolled nursing students

#21

Best Nursing Bachelor's Degree Schools (College Factual, 2024)

11:1

student-to-faculty ratio

Solution snapshot

To address the issue of student preparedness, the College of Nursing implemented Lippincott® Client Cases for Clinical Judgment within Dr. Walker's pediatric and pharmacology courses. Lippincott Client Cases is a comprehensive, case-based learning platform designed for nursing education. The platform offers more than 300 multifactorial patient scenarios that bridge the gap between classroom theory and clinical practice. Lippincott Client Cases provides holistic patient care scenarios that encompass multiple conditions, family dynamics, mental health concerns, and more, thereby preparing students for real-world nursing challenges.

Aligned with competency-based education standards and integrated with another solution in the Wolters Kluwer nursing education suite, Lippincott® CoursePoint+, Lippincott Client Cases enables cohesive learning experiences that build nurses' clinical judgment and practice readiness in one simple, easy to use solution. By means of intentional errors embedded in 50% of the cases, students can practice identifying and correcting real-world mistakes, which enhances patient safety skills.

Lippincott Client Cases offers an extensive library covering the entire nursing curriculum for both licensed practical and registered nurses, providing a reliable solution for building a clinical judgment mindset. Its flexible design allows educators to seamlessly integrate cases across different educational activities such as homework, flipped classrooms, in-class active learning, preparation for or reflection from simulations or clinicals, along with NCLEX preparation or remediation. The assignability feature enhances student accountability and offers frequent opportunities for practicing patient interactions.

The solution

Lippincott Client Cases builds clinical reasoning through reflective practice

With top-down leadership from the dean and associate dean, Dr. Walker believes the momentum began to build for the nursing program's adoption of technologies, starting with Lippincott Client Cases. "The successful implementation of Client Cases in my pediatric and pharmacology courses, coupled with positive feedback from students, helped accelerate the momentum," Dr. Walker added. "That success was concrete evidence that these tools could significantly improve student engagement and learning outcomes."

Lippincott Client Cases is designed to mirror the real-life multifactorial nature of human health; meaning the cases are not focused on a single disease or specific conditions. Students exercise applying their course knowledge alongside recognizing, prioritizing, and reflecting on what they would do if this were their patient without the "doing" action required in a simulation. There are several ways to incorporate the solution into a course, but Dr. Walker advocates for guided instructor facilitation which sparks student collaboration tied to course content.

For example, as Dr. Walker leads students through a case, they begin to see clinical connections as she prompts them with Socratic questioning. That encourages students to think critically about a patient's condition, possible interventions, and the rationale behind their decisions. The technique helps students recognize and respond to clinical cues in a safe setting. This enables them to develop critical-thinking skills before tackling virtual simulations or finding themselves in more-complex simulations and high-pressure clinical environments.



"Client Cases are especially beneficial for students early in the nursing program. The cases are essential for the development of foundational thinking skills. This early exposure helps students start thinking like nurses from the outset rather than just memorizing facts."

"As they progress, the complexity levels of the cases can increase – in alignment with students' growing knowledge and skills, thereby making the learning process more effective and less overwhelming."

– **Amy Walker, PhD, RN**
Professor
Seattle University
College of Nursing



Dynamic patient scenarios

Unlike static case studies, Lippincott Client Cases unfold over time in an evolving prepopulated EHR. Certain cases provide practice in spotting human mistakes, helping educators teach students how to recognize and respond as part of the nursing role.



Focus on critical thinking

The solution emphasizes the development of clinical readiness skills by requiring students to analyze information, prioritize actions, and consider the consequences of their decisions.



Support for neurodivergent students

Neurodivergent students usually engage better when coached with case-based learning, because case-based learning guides them to what they should be noticing in a patient's evolving electronic health record.



Feedback and reflection

After completing a case, students receive feedback on their performance, including what they did well and areas for improvement.

Results

Improved student performance

Students who used Lippincott Client Cases performed better both in classroom settings and in clinicals. Students reported increased confidence, said they were more excited about becoming a nurse, and asked better questions when in clinicals.

Enhanced engagement and understanding

Through Lippincott Client Cases, students were more engaged in and more enthusiastic about learning. They valued the practical, hands-on approach to learning complex concepts like pharmacology and pathophysiology, which helped them better understand and retain the material.

Positive impact on clinical judgment

Students' consistent use of Lippincott Client Cases has better prepared students to make clinical judgments. Students became able to more confidently apply their classroom learning to real-world patient scenarios.

Reduced anxiety and improved perception of pharmacology

Students in Walker's pharmacology course first viewed the course as a weeder, or intentionally difficult, course and were initially worried about the high level of difficulty. By the end of the course, though, students were reporting that the experience had transformed into a positive one. One student said, "We kind of love pharmacology," a remark that indicated a significant turnaround in that student's perception of the subject.



[Learn more about Lippincott Client Cases for Clinical Judgment](#)