

Experiential Learning Assignment Service-Learning Volunteer Hours

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to engage in a volunteer experience with a safety net project or community program. The historical roots of the nursing profession originate from the work of Florence Nightingale in giving service to those populations with increased risk or susceptibility to poor health outcomes. This experiential learning activity will provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate the ability to provide a service to the community while learning about and responding to a priority need of a specific sub population of your community. You will come to understand the expanded role of nurses as advocates beyond the bedside.

Preparation

1. Read Schoon, Porta, & Schaffer (2019) Chapter 7 p. 162 & Chapter 13 p. 261-267
2. Review Healthy People 2030: <https://health.gov/healthypeople>.
3. Identify which populations you have special interest in learning more about such as seniors, victims of violence, homeless, food insecure, youth at risk, etc.

Instructions/Grading Criteria

For this assignment you will:

1. **Complete a minimum of 10 volunteer hours:** Secure a minimum of 10 volunteer hours with an agency that provides services to a population. Examples of organizations include food shelf, homeless shelter, meals on wheels, Salvation Army, YWCA – girls on the run, ACT on Alzheimer’s, refugee centers, disabilities organizations, charities, English learning centers, violence prevention organizations, senior centers, and faith communities.
2. **Reflection:**
In your paper, reflect on what you learned. Give a few examples and explore the meaning of your volunteer work. Cite content from Schoon et al., 2019 and other appropriate sources to answer the following questions in your paper:
 - What is the priority health need for this population?
 - What are the root causes of the problem and factors that will contribute to this population remaining at risk?
 - Using research-based evidence, identify a Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Nursing Intervention that can enhance outcomes for this population.
 - Why is it important for nurses to be concerned about this issue?
 - What advocacy role can nurses take to address this issue in their community?
 - Were any of your preconceived ideas and assumptions challenged? Discuss.
 - Summary of your experience.

Assignment Submission

Submit a reflection in the D2L assignment dropbox by the due date specified in the course calendar.