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Gerontological Nursing Content in Baccalaureate Nursing Programs: Comparison of Findings From 1997 and 2003

Amy Berman BS, BSNc ... Peri Rosenfeld PhD

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In 2003, the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing (Hartford Institute), in collaboration with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, conducted a survey of baccalaureate schools of nursing in the United States to compare gerontological content to baseline data collected by the Hartford Institute in 1997. Since last surveyed in 1997, baccalaureate nursing programs have been the recipients of substantial new resources and initiatives focused on gerontological curriculum enhancement. While these initiatives are ongoing, and some are in an early stage of development, resurveying baccalaureate programs was seen as a means of taking a midcourse "pulse" as to the effectiveness of these efforts. Data suggest that there has been a fundamental shift in baccalaureate curriculum toward incorporation of a greater amount of gerontological content, integration of gerontological content in a greater number of nursing courses, and more diversity of clinical sites used for

greater number of nursing schools, and more diversity of clinical sites used for gerontological clinical experiences. As baccalaureate programs increasingly address the need to enhance gerontological nursing curricula, there continues to be an obligation to address the growing shortage of faculty with qualifications in gerontological nursing.



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Index words

Baccalaureate; Geriatric; Gerontological; Nursing; Education; Curriculum

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constitutional lepton.