

AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, & PREVENTING FRAUDULENT NURSING EDUCATION

The nursing nationwide community was shocked in 2023 wherein a finding resulted in a report of notices regarding the sale of false diplomas and transcripts from multiple defunct nursing schools in Florida—known as 2023 deliberately measured Operation Nightingale scheme/scandal. Many of the involved nurses lost their licenses. Ten people, in total, have been reported to have pleaded guilty to fraud and/or conspiracy in a diploma mill scheme in Florida wherein three to five diploma nursing programs were reported to have distributed and charged more than 7,600 individual students for fake diplomas in nursing. The educational experience reportedly took less than the two years it would normally take to earn a nursing degree. Approximately one-third of these students went on to pass their state licensing exam which allowed the students to practice nursing. These nurses are reported to be throughout the United States providing nursing care to patients. No harm was reported to have been done to any patient due to a nurse with a fraudulent nursing license. However, federal authorities reported that many who passed their examination have lost their nursing license. It was reported that prosecutors do not plan to charge nursing students who fell victim to the fraudulent scheme.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) charged over two dozen people who ran the fraudulent diploma mills. It was reported that these Florida colleges were named as presenting a threat to nursing education, nursing licensure, and nursing employment. Therefore, it has been reported there is an annulling of state nursing diplomas granted by these nursing educational programs.

The FBI is reported to be working with state licensing boards across the U.S. to identify other nurses whose education may have been fraudulent as an outcome of graduating from a nursing program from any of these colleges in Florida. No doubt, scrutiny is occurring regarding other nursing educational programs within the United States that have been or are currently providing or selling fraudulent nursing diplomas.

It was reported that fraudulent nursing license happenings in recognized Florida colleges occurred because of a stated desperate need for licensed nurses, complacency regarding the need for nursing expertise, and/or educational passive aggression. Regardless of the reason, fraudulent nursing education is unlawful, threatens the healthcare of patients, demeans the profession of nursing, and promotes the desecration of the sacred intention related to the science and practice of nursing.

THE SCIENCE OF NURSING—A REMINDER LEST WE MISPLACE OUR ALLEGIANCE!

Nursing Science is a unique combination of nursing science and nursing art. It is a highly skilled profession. There is a learning to care for communities, groups, families, and individuals. Through the study of human caring, the nursing profession uses a variety of methods to generate knowledge about helping optimize healthful functioning. Through the many aspects of nursing practice, it is known to be an evidenced-based nursing practice of systematized scientific knowledge and research.

Therefore, nursing education is to be regulated and evaluated carefully as to the teaching related to the theory and practice of the nursing process. Educators are to be knowledgeable and have teaching theory education and expertise to be educationally prepared in the profession of nursing education/teaching. Nursing administrators are to be educationally prepared in the administration of education/teaching and hired to oversee full-time the guidance and evaluation of nursing teaching abilities and clinical educational support. The nursing educator's and nursing administrator's job description clarifies educational and administrative responsibilities. Therefore, the full-time nursing administrator and every nursing faculty member are to have an active (and periodically evaluated) job description that states their specific responsibilities to teach the science and art of nursing and be an active member of the faculty as it relates to cognitive requirements, psychomotor abilities, and attitude that enhances healthful living. The outcome of successful full-time nursing administrative support and an educator's positive participation results in students witnessing role models of nursing excellence. The participatory and directed intensity toward nursing education provided by quality educational requirements of nursing faculty as indicated in a job description are specific (not hit-or-miss) in nature.

To learn the science of nursing, students must be educationally and experientially prepared, adequately tested, and experience excellence in nursing faculty role modeling. There is NO ROOM FOR ANY:

- *FRAUDULENT OR INADEQUATE EDUCATION**
- * PASSIVE BEHAVIORS REGARDING EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION**
- * ACQUISITION OF POOR EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS**
- * LACK OF FULL-TIME NURSING ADMINISTRATION OF ACADEMIC NURSING EDUCATION**
- * LACK OF PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE OF ANY NURSING STAFF ON BEHALF OF ANY NURSING STUDENT**

UNDERSTANDING ENTROPY & MOVEMENT TOWARD RANDOMNESS

The meaning of ENTROPY states that everything in the universe moves toward randomness/dissolution/eradication/disorganization/failure. Surely, we hope Florida has not always had a nursing education entropy problem so clearly recognized, nor do we want/expect to ever see this problem there, again, or elsewhere! However, it is a harsh warning to all nursing educational programs throughout the United States to respect the convoluted importance of nursing education as one of the most important educational processes for the success of a healthful life in every community! And—movement away from toward originally intended educational quality is a natural happening without careful monitoring!

As colleges and/or states push to save money, the administrator of the institution of higher learning may say they cannot find adequate and qualified staff for their nursing programs. It has been noted that this may not always be true—but of personal administrative choice and effort to allow nursing faculty the administrative power and control of nursing faculty and leadership choices. Regardless of the institute of higher education administration choices or reasoning, our society has expectations of outstanding full-time nursing administration and excellence in nursing education. All higher education/academic administrators of an institution of higher learning and especially a full-time nursing program administrator under the direction of a higher education/academic administrator, are expected by their administrative assignment/job description to be accountable for the attainment, retention, and pursuit of quality nursing education without evidence of entropy. Nursing education by qualified nursing staff is, also, to be closely directed by a full-time nursing administrator. This specifically assigned nursing administrator within an institution of higher learning boldly announces the intended and expected quality of higher education leadership excellence in the nursing educational program and compliance with nursing faculty job description standards. This full-time nursing administrative role assignment helps to ensure that all aspects of the nursing program are designed to prepare nursing students to legally, safely, and appropriately pursue a nursing license by taking and passing a required state nursing licensing exam.

Now—let us all, as administrators and educators of nursing, be watchful to prevent the fraudulent example of entropy in nursing education! Full-time nursing administrative employment provides helpful vigilance and responsible leadership related to nursing education and expertise. This full-time administrative control will help to curtail the natural universal tendencies toward entropy—as it happened, for any reason, in Florida. Job descriptions will help hold the quality of educational expectations of nursing educators stable.

Be vigilant to the protection of the true and needed Science of Nursing as a community trust, lest entropy (movement toward fraudulent randomness of educational expectations) occur that could lead nursing education and resultant nursing care for our society into the fraudulent abyss!

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