

DIGITAL LEARNING IN NURSING: STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES WITH SHADOW HEALTH PHARMACOLOGY

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The present study used descriptive quantitative methodologies in order to (1) investigate nursing students' perceptions concerning the effectiveness of using Shadow Health Pharmacology (SHP), a digital interactive learning tool, (2) evaluate the effectiveness of SHP in improving student success, and (3) investigate its effects on improving students' critical thinking as well as oral and written communication skills. Fifty-one online students in their first year of a RN-BSN nursing program completed an online survey after finishing an online course that used virtual patients' digital experiences synchronized with online theoretical content. Findings reflected that SHP was effective in improving students' learning experiences in the targeted course. Approximately half the participants strongly agreed/agreed that SHP improved their critical thinking and written communication skills, but felt it had less effect on improving their oral communication skills. Overall student success in the targeted online course improved (71.1%) after using SHP as a learning tool.