

Behind the Red Line: An OR Introductory Course

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Background

Recruiting and retaining surgical services positions has affected healthcare facilities nationwide. The impact of staffing shortages on sterile processing departments has become challenging, impacting patient safety. Recruitment of surgical technicians poses an additional problem as it has been compared to the nursing shortage. Perioperative nursing is often lacking in nursing school curricula. Students need to be given the opportunity to rotate within the perioperative specialty to acquire an adequate understanding of its roles. Baylor Scott & White Medical Center (BSWMC)-Temple has formed a collaborative educational initiative with Temple College Workforce and Continuing Education to offer an introductory training course for any student interested in the perioperative specialty. The course will allow students to gain exposure to and understand best practices for patients undergoing surgery.

Problem

The Operating Room (OR) at BSWMC-Temple does not offer an introductory training course for college students. This initiative aims to actively expose students to the peri-operative setting to help create an OR interest and recruitment pipeline for surgical processing technicians, certified surgical technicians (CSTs), and OR nursing positions in the Temple Region.

Methods

The plan-do-check-act model was incorporated to guide this initiative. Both BSWMC-Temple and Temple College Workforce and Continuing Education have met to strategize and plan the introductory training course. The first cohort of seven students started August 21st, 2024. After the completion of the first cohort, the team will review and implement changes to ensure sustainability and successful recruitment efforts.

Partnering Together to Serve our Community



Interventions

Eight introductory topics were developed to provide an entry-level curriculum to engage students and support the safe passage of patients through the perioperative area. The OR introductory training course was designed to coincide with Temple College's 8-week mini-semester. Topics of focus include perioperative teamwork, patient safety, sterile technique, surgical counts, patient positioning, patient skin antisepsis, patient transfers, and environmental cleaning. The 8-week course features a flipped classroom approach where students watch videos and participate in a discussion board post or completion of a quiz before participating in 1.5 hours of hands-on simulation to reinforce learning on each week's focused topic. To ensure low cost for the student, BSWMC-Temple staff facilitate the course: The Nursing Professional Development Specialist for the OR leads the course and OR nurses and CSTs lead hands-on training. The only out of pocket cost to the student is a \$49 supply kit containing all supplies needed to complete the hands-on portion of the course. The collaboration team designed a recruitment flyer which was posted on Temple College campus and shared with students electronically.

Behind the Red Line

Introduction to Working in the Operating Room

COURSE SCHEDULE

SRGT 1091 2124
August 21 - October 15, 2024
Wednesdays 5 - 6:30 pm

PROGRAM TUITION
\$49.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory training course is designed to prepare students for the practical challenges of the operating room's perioperative setting. It covers eight introductory topics, equipping students with the knowledge and skills to support the safe passage of patients through the perioperative area. The course also provides an evidence-based perioperative care foundation, ensuring that any healthcare professional is competent in understanding and applying best practices for patients undergoing surgery.



REGISTRATION

Visit tinyurl.com/wce-application to apply



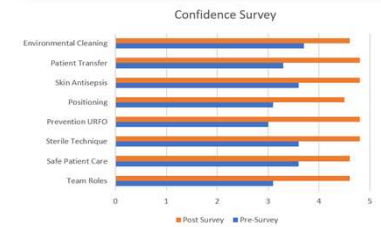
wce@templejc.edu

templejc.edu/wce

254.298.8625

Results

Evaluation plan was focused on confidence surveys pre and post completion of the introductory training course. The team obtained evidence for content validity from the list of behavioral objectives that guided our construction of the survey tool. To date, one student of this course has been employed in perioperative services at BSWMC-Temple.



Implications for practice

Community partnership is essential in creating a pathway for our healthcare professions in the Temple region. Temple College's collaborative effort and support of the perioperative team at BSWMC-Temple to build this introductory training program will foster a spirit of inquiry in students interested in perioperative roles.

References

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