SURVEY REPORT
Associate Degree in Nursing Program
Report of Survey Results:

Exit Survey

Associate's Degree in Nursing

Report Generated: June 20, 2014

For All Graduates between December 20, 2012, and December 20, 2013
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General Information

Presented in this report are results from the exit survey.

Exit Survey: The exit survey collects information regarding the graduates’ current employment status, future educational plans, their achievement of specific goals and Excelsior College’s impact on those goals, their level of satisfaction with the College, importance and satisfaction with resources provided at Excelsior College, their achievement of general education outcomes, and achievement of the program’s student learning outcomes. The survey also solicits graduates’ perceptions of program strengths and suggestions for change.

Questions related to the exit survey or to the design and production of this report may be addressed to the Director of Institutional Effectiveness.

Interpreting Results: Care should be taken in interpreting survey results. Survey results can be affected by self-selection bias, in which persons with certain characteristics or opinions are more likely to respond. Particular caution should be taken when the numbers of responses are small because results may be skewed.

Please consider the following guidelines when interpreting survey data:

Means: When results are expressed in a chart or table of means, please note the range of values and their meanings, which are listed in a footnote below the chart or table. In general, mean values of 4 or higher on a 6-point Likert scale are considered positive. Similarly, a mean value of 5 or higher is considered positive on a 7-point scale. Throughout the report, means are calculated only for Likert-type items that received five or more responses.

Standard deviations: Wherever mean values are presented, please also consider the standard deviations (SD) that accompany them. Standard deviation is a measure of variability in the response to a survey item, such that a small SD indicates less variation (more agreement) among respondents.

Frequency tables: As noted above, means are calculated only for Likert-type items that received five or more responses. If fewer than five were received, responses will be displayed in frequency tables, with a numerical count provided for each response. Where charts display survey items in pairs (such as ratings of program outcomes), both items will be displayed in a frequency table if either received fewer than five responses.

Notes:

The graduation dates appearing on the cover of this report represent the requested report period. The dates appearing in the Sample section on page 2 indicate the range of graduation dates among actual survey respondents.

The following symbol may appear in this report:

\(^{\wedge}\) Denotes that one or more survey items displayed in a chart or table expired during the report period and so were not asked of all respondents. An explanatory footnote to this effect has been included beneath charts and tables where this symbol may appear.
Exit Survey Results

Sample

The exit survey was sent to 904 Associate's Degree in Nursing graduates. A total of 307 responded, resulting in a response rate of 34.0%. Respondents to the survey graduated between December 2012 and December 2013.

Gender: (N = 307)

- Female 76.2%
- Male 23.8%

Ethnicity: (N = 307)

- White 69.7%
- Black or African American 18.2%
- Hispanic 6.8%
- Asian 3.6%
- Two or More Races 1.0%
- American Indian or Alaska Native 0.3%
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 0.3%

Which of the following best describes your Excelsior College experience? (N = 305)

- I transferred in the majority of my general education requirements and completed other program requirements by exam. 40.0%
- I completed examinations to meet most of my requirements. 26.9%
- I completed the majority of my coursework through EC online courses. 15.1%
- I used a combination of EC courses and exams to meet most program requirements. 14.4%
- I transferred in the majority of my program requirements. 3.6%
Employment and Professional Affiliations

Are you currently employed? (N = 307)

- Yes, full time 77.5%
- Yes, part time 12.7%
- No, but seeking employment 8.1%
- No, and not seeking employment 1.3%
- Retired 0.3%

In what field are you employed? (N = 273)

- Nursing 81.0%
- Health Care (non-nursing) 14.3%
- Other 1.8%
- Marketing/Sales 1.5%
- Business/Management 0.4%
- Construction 0.4%
- Life Sciences 0.4%
- Research (Health Science) 0.4%

Those who identified their field of employment as “Other” listed the following fields:

- EMS
- Firefighting
- Paramedic firefighter
- Respiratory Therapy Manager
- Retail/Sales
In which of the following health care settings do you currently work? (N = 258)

- Hospital inpatient service: 23.6%
- Long term care: 22.9%
- Emergency services: 14.3%
- Home health: 9.7%
- Other: 9.3%
- Physician office: 9.3%
- Hospital outpatient care/ambulatory services: 7.0%
- Corrections: 1.9%
- Medical insurance office: 1.9%
- School nurse: 1.2%
- Occupational health: 0.8%
- Outpatient surgery: 0.8%
- Public health department: 0.8%
- HMO: 0.4%
- Medical billing & coding: 0.4%

Those who classified their work settings in the “Other” category listed the following health care settings:

- hospital and corrections
- Psychology

What is the title of your current position? (N = 259)

- LPN/LVN: 46.3%
- Staff nurse: 22.0%
- Paramedic: 12.0%
- Other: 8.5%
- Manager: 5.0%
- Supervisor: 2.7%
- Respiratory therapist: 1.2%
- Technician: 1.2%
- Clinical nurse specialist: 0.4%
- Community health nurse: 0.4%
- Educator: 0.4%
Those who indicated their title was in the category “Other” provided the following titles:

- Case Manager
- Case Manager for a Pharmaceutical Company
- Certified Nurse's Aide
- Charge Auditor II
- concurrent review coordinator
- Home health nurse
- LPN (n=4)
- LPN staff nurse
- Mental Health Assistant
- N/A
- Patient service coordinator
- PCA
- Pharmacy Primary Care Clinical Liaison
- Prospective Payment Service/FIMS Coordinator
- Risk Manager/Quality Improvement
- School Nurse at Thomas Elementary School
- Senior LPN
- staff LPN
- triage/resource
- Utilization management specialist
- Utilization Nurse

Where do you currently work? (N = 256)

- Urban area 38.7%
- Suburban area 34.8%
- Rural area 26.6%

Are you a member of any professional organizations? (N = 303)

- Yes 19.1%
- No 80.9%
Graduates indicated membership in the following nursing organizations:

- American Nurses Association: 27.6% (n=16)
- National League for Nursing: 12.1% (n=7)
- Other: 55.2% (n=32)

Note: Graduates may select more than one organization, so the total of all percentages in the chart above may be more than 100%.

Graduates identified the following organizations:

- AmAssoc. For Resp Care, Texas State Resp Care Assoc. and I plan to join Nursing organizations after I pass my NCLEX
- American association of cancer research
- American Association of Respiratory Care
- American Association of Respiratory Care, Association of Asthma Educators
- ASPAN
- IAFF
- International Assoc of Flight and Critical Care Paramedics
- International Association of Firefighters
- N/A (n=5)
- National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, Iowa Emergency Medical Service Association
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians / National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
• NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS PARAMEDIC,
• None (n=5)
• Uintah Basin Medical Center

Future Educational Plans

Are you planning or considering enrollment in any educational program after completing your Excelsior College degree? (N = 300)

• No 16.0%
• Yes, a bachelor’s program 70.0%
• Yes, a certificate program 0.3%
• Yes, graduate courses 0.3%
• Yes, a master’s program 10.7%
• Yes, a doctoral program 1.3%
• Other 1.3%

Those who planned or considered enrolling in programs in the “Other” category listed the following programs:

• Considering a MBA program but not within a specific timeframe. Also considering a certificate (CPHM) study program.
• unsure

If Excelsior College offers the program you are interested in, would you consider re-enrolling? (N = 303)

• Yes 52.5%
• Maybe 36.6%
• No 10.9%

Graduates identified the following programs of interest:

• ASN
• ASN to BSN or MSN
• BA in Nursing
• bachelor in nursing maybe
• Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor's degree program (n=2)
- Bachelor's in Nursing through Western Governor's University
- BSN (n=82)
- BSN and MSN
- Bsn or msn
- BSN, and or a BS degree
- BSN, but not a lengthy program...something short and sweet
- BSN, MS
- BSN, MSN
- BSN.
- BSn. I'm going to enroll as soon as i pass my state boards
- BSN/Masters
- Continuing education/ certification courses
- Critical Care Nursing / End of Life Care / Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counseling
- Doctorate of Health Science
- Family nurse practitioner
- Master degree nursing program or PA program
- Master-DNP
- Masters Family Nurse Practitioner
- MSN
- Nurse practitioner (n=2)
- nursing (n=3)
- Nursing...ASN to BSN
- Online BSN
- RN - BSN Bridge
- RN- MSN (n=2)
- RN to BSN (n=13)
- RN to BSN, after that then to Masters in education and another in management
- RN to BSV
- RN to MSN
- Rn to MSN or RN to BSN
- RN-BSN/MSN
Career and Educational Goals

Please indicate how much you have achieved each goal and how much Excelsior College impacted your achievement. (Mean ratings)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>EC Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meet requirements for certification</td>
<td>5.13 (n=178, SD=1.14)</td>
<td>4.75 (n=179, SD=1.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet requirements for current position</td>
<td>5.00 (n=180, SD=1.21)</td>
<td>4.42 (n=186, SD=1.78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal enrichment</td>
<td>4.98 (n=219, SD=1.03)</td>
<td>4.55 (n=207, SD=1.51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update knowledge and skills</td>
<td>4.94 (n=221, SD=1.12)</td>
<td>4.72 (n=213, SD=1.39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discover new job opportunities</td>
<td>4.57 (n=214, SD=1.27)</td>
<td>4.17 (n=201, SD=1.76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition to a new job</td>
<td>4.48 (n=194, SD=1.57)</td>
<td>4.24 (n=187, SD=1.81)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Likert scale: Achievement: 1 = Not at all achieved, 6 = Completely achieved
Likert scale: Excelsior College Impact: 1 = No impact, 6 = Great impact
Resources from Excelsior College

Please indicate how important each resource/service was to you and how satisfied you were with the option. (Mean ratings)

Items related to Academic Experience:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Satisfaction</th>
<th>Importance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance of credits earned elsewhere</td>
<td>5.14 (n=211, SD=1.22)</td>
<td>5.61 (n=221, SD=0.78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program curriculum availability</td>
<td>4.95 (n=210, SD=1.16)</td>
<td>5.39 (n=220, SD=0.99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option of online courses</td>
<td>4.94 (n=185, SD=1.37)</td>
<td>5.13 (n=206, SD=1.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarity of program requirements</td>
<td>4.88 (n=215, SD=1.33)</td>
<td>5.48 (n=228, SD=0.79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of faculty</td>
<td>4.85 (n=202, SD=1.25)</td>
<td>5.35 (n=210, SD=0.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of curriculum</td>
<td>4.77 (n=212, SD=1.30)</td>
<td>5.33 (n=221, SD=0.88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor communication with students</td>
<td>4.69 (n=208, SD=1.52)</td>
<td>5.22 (n=216, SD=1.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of multiple options for credits</td>
<td>4.67 (n=168, SD=1.38)</td>
<td>5.19 (n=176, SD=1.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option of prior learning assessments</td>
<td>4.67 (n=154, SD=1.45)</td>
<td>4.98 (n=164, SD=1.24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of advisement</td>
<td>4.57 (n=209, SD=1.54)</td>
<td>5.15 (n=218, SD=1.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance in planning program of study</td>
<td>4.33 (n=196, SD=1.51)</td>
<td>5.07 (n=208, SD=1.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option of CD-ROM courses</td>
<td>3.84 (n=111, SD=1.83)</td>
<td>3.74 (n=126, SD=1.91)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Likert scale: Satisfaction: 1 = Not at all satisfied, 6 = Very satisfied
Likert scale: Importance: 1 = Not at all important, 6 = Very important
Items related to Excelsior College Exams:

- Option of credit by exam: 5.41 (n=199, SD=0.96), 5.56 (n=212, SD=0.79)
- Availability of examinations: 5.26 (n=217, SD=1.01), 5.55 (n=227, SD=0.72)
- Clear instructions to register for Excelsior College examinations: 5.05 (n=218, SD=1.14), 5.42 (n=231, SD=0.86)
- Accurate measurement of knowledge by Excelsior College exams: 4.88 (n=216, SD=1.28), 5.42 (n=228, SD=0.86)
- Accurate measurement of skills by Excelsior College exams: 4.70 (n=219, SD=1.40), 5.39 (n=227, SD=0.85)

Items related to Other Support Services:

- User-friendly technology: 4.79 (n=210, SD=1.32), 5.26 (n=216, SD=1.05)
- Technical support: 4.58 (n=172, SD=1.40), 4.84 (n=182, SD=1.39)
- My Excelsior Community: 4.38 (n=176, SD=1.59), 4.59 (n=190, SD=1.57)
- Excelsior College online tutoring services: 4.27 (n=124, SD=1.65), 4.58 (n=134, SD=1.56)
- Cost of attendance: 4.14 (n=205, SD=1.54), 5.27 (n=215, SD=1.08)
- Excelsior College Library: 3.99 (n=144, SD=1.62), 4.18 (n=159, SD=1.63)
- Availability of financial aid: 3.07 (n=136, SD=1.97), 4.28 (n=139, SD=1.83)

Likert scale: Satisfaction: 1 = Not at all satisfied, 6 = Very satisfied
Likert scale: Importance: 1 = Not at all important, 6 = Very important
General Education Outcomes

Please indicate the degree to which you believe you have achieved each of these outcomes. 
(N = 215 - 221)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Utilize information effectively in an ethical and legal manner</td>
<td>5.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate the credibility of information from various sources</td>
<td>4.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilize scientific reasoning and basic mathematical calculations in problem solving</td>
<td>4.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interact effectively with people from backgrounds and cultures different from you</td>
<td>4.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand and appreciate the complexities of diversity</td>
<td>4.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectively express oneself orally, with clarity, persuasiveness, and coherence using standard conventions of English</td>
<td>4.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectively express oneself in writing, with clarity, persuasiveness, and coherence using standard conventions of English</td>
<td>4.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify effective solutions for ethical and social issues faced by individuals or communities</td>
<td>4.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articulate the importance of social responsibility and civic engagement</td>
<td>4.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyze global issues from different perspectives that consider diverse views (politics, culture, economics, and religion)</td>
<td>4.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain, interpret, critique, create, or perform works of human creativity (for example literature, art, or academic work)</td>
<td>4.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Likert scale: 1 = Not at all achieved, 6 = Completely achieved

^ If this symbol appears next to a question above, the question expired during the report period.
In which of the following health care settings did you work at the time of enrollment in the School of Nursing? (N = 242)

Those who classified their work settings in the “Other” category described the following settings:

- Acute Care Hospital
- corrections
- Dialysis
- Emergency Room
- Flight medicine
- Flight medicine and critical care paramedicine
- Flight Paramedic
- Group Purchasing Organization for healthcare facilities- Marketing
- Hospice (n=2)
- Hospital (n=3)
- jail
- LTAC
- LTAC - Hospital
- LTACH
- not in health care
- Nursing corrections
- OP clinic and Med Surg
- Operating Room
- OR
- Pharmaceutical Case Management
- Plasma center
Which of the following best describes your health care preparation at the time of enrollment in the School of Nursing? (N = 242)

![Bar chart showing percentages of different preparation types.]

Those who classified their preparation in the “Other” category described the following preparation:

- 7 weeks from graduation in previous school
- completed all pre-reqs and non nursing requirements before starting EC for the nursing classes
- CST
- LPN LICENSE
- LPN License in Tennessee
- LVN
- respiratory therapist (n=2)
- RRT
- RT & EMS & some nursing school
- Surgical Technologist
Please evaluate the degree to which your health care preparation prepared you for completion of the Associate degree nursing program. (N = 242)

- Choice 6: Very well prepared 46.3%
- Choice 5 32.9%
- Choice 4 15.4%
- Choice 3 4.6%
- Choice 2 0.4%
- Choice 1: Very poorly prepared 0.4%
Associate's Degree in Nursing Program Outcomes

Please rate the degree to which you have achieved each outcome and how well your educational experience prepared you to demonstrate each outcome. (Mean ratings)

- I can manage clients' prescribed medication regime.
- I can safely administer medications through intravenous, intramuscular, and subcutaneous routes.
- I practice nursing within an legal, ethical, and moral framework.
- I advocate for the rights of clients and members of the profession of nursing.
- I can identify the scope of practice for members of the health care team.
- I am sensitive to differing values/beliefs of clients.
- I support client's effective coping behaviors.
- I use critical thinking skills to identify problems and seek interventions.
- I promote health maintenance and health restoration across the life span.
- I can distinguish between credible and non-credible sources of information.
- I use appropriate means of communication with clients and other members of the health care team.
- I prioritize and evaluate nursing care using established standards of professional practice.
- I can readily provide a rationale in support of a judgment.
- I can analyze an issue or problem from more than one perspective.
Likert scale: Achieved: 1 = Not at all achieved, 6 = Completely achieved
Likert scale: Prepared: 1 = Very poorly prepared, 6 = Very well prepared
^ If this symbol appears next to a question above, the question expired during the report period.
Overall Impression of College, Program and Career

If you had it to do over again, would you: (Attend Excelsior n = 242; Same program n = 226; Same career n = 230)

Would you recommend Excelsior College to a friend or colleague interested in an educational degree? (N = 242)

- Yes 85.5%
- No 14.5%

Open-Ended Items

What do you consider to be the strengths of your Excelsior College degree program? (N = 174)

Comments:

- Ability to be able to work and go to school
- ability to complete the first portion of the program in a self-paced manner
- Ability to complete things online.
- Ability to do it online and via exams at students own pace was priceless
- ability to move at my own pace while balancing family and work.
- Ability to study and test on your own time. Staff at the CPNE workshop was great, I really enjoyed listening to the lectures. Cevita, not sure if I spelled her name correctly, was very good.
She was able to keep us interested in the content. I also found that speaking to the staff one-on-one very helpful, (To rid the "white coat syndrome"). My examiners at the CPNE in August were great. They were easy to talk to, didn't seem to be "above" the role, as was my first experience.

- Ability to study at my own rate was very important. The program definitely prepared me with the nursing process of assessing, choosing nursing diagnoses, planning, implementing and evaluating.
- ability to work while attending and working at your own pace.
- Able to pace myself, convenience of courses and tests.
- Able to study and test at my own pace. I had to work full-time and therefore a traditional RN degree program d / would not work for me.
- Acceptance of credits from previous colleges with no time limitations
- AFTER STUDYING INDEPENDENTLY WITH ASSIST FROM EXCELSIOR, I FIND THE BASE OF KNOWLEDGE BETTER THAN THOSE WHO ATTENDED REGULAR COMMUNITY COLLEGES. Going through Excelsior incorp me with independence of thinking outside the box to be successful
- At home schooling and work on your own
- availability of advisors and instructors - I was always able to speak with someone who was very professional and was able to give me advise or solve my problem
- availability of exam testing with self motivated study. friendly supportive staff that are willing to help with questions quickly.
- Available advisors, good study guides to prepare for the Core nursing exams
- Be able to go for clinical exam well prepared with the help of CPNE study guide well done and easily understandable.
- Being able to do it at my own pace.
- Being able to do the classes/exams at my own pace and allowed by my full time working position.
- clinicals/ exams
- Convenience
- Convenience...awesome support from the school. Couldn't ask for anything better. Greatly appreciated.
- Convince
- Cost.
- CPNE Preparation program.
- CPNE preparation. I very difficult test to pass. Harder than what most traditional programs offer.
- Independence- using the resources around to further my education in the absence of a traditional classroom. Being able to work while I prepare for classes.
- credit for exam, relatively low cost, to be online
- Determination.
- Easy access, self study,
- Educational support and encouragement from faculty / / Excelsior wants its students to be successful
- Exams which can be take at my pace and schedule
- Excellent, self paced program
• Excelsior can help me to be a good healthcare worker from deep inside
• Excelsior is an excellent opportunity for healthcare professional to further their education within their own time and at their pace. It allowed me to continue to grow my family. I was pregnant and delivered my baby girl during that time. I also had a full time job that was very demanding, and health issues that effect my ability to enroll in a traditional college at the time. I was very please with the testing resources and availability of testing centers.
• flexibility of scheduling exams
• flexibility
• flexible schedule, online,
• Flexibility (n=8)
• flexibility and autonomy of classes
• Flexibility and being able to self motivate.
• flexibility for the working student with lots of online help
• Flexibility with courses. / Credit for life experience. / Individualized. /
• Flexibility, cost (potential), friendly faculty.
• flexibility, financial affordability
• Flexibility, Price
• Flexibility. Able to work at my own pace and adjust class load with my life events. Felt really accomplished on completion because I was able to complete the program based on self initiative.
• For busy mothers, it provides the option to pursue a degree while taking care of a family and being employed. It was the only school which provided me the flexibility I needed.
• For someone who has severe time and schedule conflicts, and already has a very strong clinical healthcare foundation, EC is pretty much the only pathway to RN licensure.
• Given me the strength to study whenever I want to.
• Good documentation
• Hard work, sacrifice, determination, disciplined
• I am proud of the accomplishment that I have worked so hard for over the pass four years. Mentally and physically it has been difficult, but well worth the dedication that I have put into all the long hours of study. I am prepared to take the next step in life as a RN. I am much thankful that I took this step and pursued my dream of becoming the person that I am today, a college graduate at forty-six years young with a smile on my face. I am so proud. Thanks Excelsior College. My strengths were being dedicated and not giving up on my dream.
• I am very independent and can handle stress in the work environment well.
• I answered yes to recommending Excelsior College but would like to say that I wouldn’t recommend to anyone that needs extra help or wants to get all of their general education credits this way.
• I appreciated the flexibility it allowed.
• I consider the experience, knowledge and expert guidance of the Qualified Nursing Advisement Staff, as well as the Clinical Staff to have been extremely instrumental in my success with completion of my nursing degree program.
I consider the strengths of Excelsior College to be the degree of flexibility offered through the EC Examinations. It allows students to continue working full time and study at your own pace in order to fulfill degree requirements.

I have been able to study on my own, truly understanding all that it takes to be a good Nurse.

I have learning disabilities never could have done a traditional nursing program I was able to develop techniques along with guidance from nursing advisors a the EPN network to assist me my studies.

I liked the flexibility of completing the program on my time. I wish I had been more informed of study options before the last year of my program. The faculty was great when I spoke with them. I only wish that they all gave the same answers to certain questions when asked. Sometimes one staff member would say one thing, then the next would say that was incorrect. Financial aide would have been nice. I received no help whatsoever and am terribly in dept on credit cards because when I enrolled the program did not qualify for student loans. Being a military family, I feel that some of the grants and help should have been made known to me before I had already paid for everything upfront. however, I had a dream and now that dream is a reality so for that, I am forever thankful.

I liked the flexibility of studying at home when it was convenient for me and my family life. I tested when I was ready and had adequate time to get ready, I liked not having assignment due dates, and no lengthy papers.

I love the idea of working at your own pace. The program works with working full time and having small children.

I think the best thing is that Excelsior prepares you for what you need to know and be able to do and skips all the writing papers and doing projects that you dont need to do, to be a functioning level RN graduate. I FEEL AS THOUGH i AM PREPARED for my new job here in the clinic as an RN triage nurse for Vascular Surgery.

I took this program because I could do it with my work schedule

I was able to use the resources of Excelsior and study at my own pace to achieve my goal of graduate nurse. I feel very confident as soon as my background check is cleared I will ace the NCLEX. I thank all the nursing staff that helped me develop the skills to become a nurse.

I was able to work and study at the same time while obtaining my degree.

I was well prepared with many years of hands on experience which allowed me to be successful in this program, especially during the CPNE. As for the program itself, one needs to be a driven person and with determination and dedication as well as discipline can be successful in anything they encounter. I was very focused and put a great deal of time into my studies with Excelsior College.

I’d have been much happier to attend school instead of online. I had to do things this way because I’m a single mom. The CPNE was a nightmare for me. It was the worst thing in my life I had to prepare for and go and complete at hospital.

Independent learner, self-starter

Independent study

independent studying
Independent. I would not recommend this program for those who are not self-disciplined. The flexibility was perfect for my situation at the time.

It allowed me to complete my education and maintain a full-time job.

It demands that you perform your best weather on an exam or CPNE. Also, the way the exams are set up, you are lead in a way that knowledge is built from one exam to the other.

It simplifies your life when working full time because you can work at your own pace. I would recommend and not recommend the program, it is now for everyone. It is very hard to be the only person pushing you to complete the program. You don't have the same support with classmates and that classroom feel and encouragement as you might being in a classroom.

It was at my own pace

It was easy to work into a busy schedule and I worked at my pace.

It worked with my work schedule so I could go at my own pace, and was able to be in control of how fast I completed my program.

Learning independently. Having to study without a professor giving you deadlines, is convenient, very if you are working and raising children. Peers are amazed that you can earn a college degree without sitting in a classroom. Earning a college degree on line, Fantastic!!

Life changing experience with the CPNE and self-discipline with studying.

Lower cost and very flexible

My EC program strengthen my confidence in skills practices and critical thinking

my previous knowledge and experience in a hospital setting

No being in class.

No need to travel to college.

None

Offer of Independent study and credit by exam.

One can study at their own pace / This program allows you to pay as go, so on completion you do not have a significant financial responsibility to pay.

Online (n=2)

On-line accessibility

Online program allows for flexibility

Online, at my own pace and time

Only those hard working and determined enough can make it through...

Planned and student friendly computer programs.

Practice exams

Preparation for the clinical weekend brought everything together.

Professional staff and organization.

Schedule

Scheduling flexibility, advisement

Self motivation

Self paced

Self paced and incorporation of prior education and training

Self paced program, excelsior peer network, advisor assistance.
• Self paced program. Excellent support from staff in preparing for the CPNE. Excellent staff for the CPNE in Lubbock.
• Self paced, affordable, able to work full time while going to school
• Self study
• Set your own individual pace for course completion / student support services and the flexibility in scheduling course.
• Student who cannot attend a traditional program have the opportunity to get their RN certification at their own pace.
• Study at my own pace
• Study at one’s own pace specially when working 2 jobs and having a family life.

• Successful development of critical thinking and judgment in all aspects of nursing.
• Taught me to be completely self sufficient in finding and learning needed information.
• That I could complete my degree at my own pace and still work full time, I have bills to pay and would have been unable to attend school full time.
• That I could do it online.
• The ability to complete degree online.
• The ability to discipline oneself to achieve the goal of becoming a Graduate Nurse by using god time management skills. Having had to combine care of family, full time job and studying at the same time, allows one to eventually become a dedicated, disciplined and persevering nurse.
• the ability to do the work online
• The ability to earn a degree on your own time and at your own pace.
• the ability to pace myself with my course work
• The ability to perform independent study and then receive accreditation by examination at my own rate of speed and ability.
• The ability to study and test at your own pace and affordability. For myself, I can learn quickly and took exams often.
• The ability to study independently, working full time and managed to pass
• The ability to take the NCLEX
• The ability to test at your own pace.
• The ability to work at my own pace.
• The ability to work at my own pace. To be Able to work full time. Also excepting credits already earned, since my local college would not accept older credits.
• The ability to work at your own pace and test when your ready
• The advisors, nursing faculty. Flexibility on credit options to fulfill the degree reqs.
• The associate degree nursing program is not expensive, the instructors assistance and support available immediately.
• The availability of the nursing staffs were very helpful in phone conference.
• The Clinical was so emotional and nerve racking. In a traditional college I believe it would be easier. You would have several weeks to perform them and be graded on. During the CPNE It is perfection and pass or fail. That had to be the hardest thing I have ever had to endure.
- The college make it possible for working adults to obtain there dreams.
- The degree program is self-timed and self-driven, so there's no pressure to take a class when you're not ready, or take an exam before you understand the material.
- The discipline required to complete the process. Independent and self taught knowledge will provide me with the tools to be successful in any nursing situation.
- The exams and flexible schedule
- The fact that one can work at their own pace without penalty
- the fact that there is no timeline and you can work on your own pace. It allows for other commitments and family. One must be very self motivated though or you will never finish.
- the flexibility and great courses.. and great support
- The flexibility and readily available information.
- The flexibility of being able to do credit by exam from abroad at your own pace.
- The flexibility to work and go to school at the same time was really the only strength of this program I found. Its the only reason I would recommend the program.
- the flexibility. I would not be a RN now if it wasn't for EC. It allowed me to do a little at a time and just keep plugging away at my requirements. I graduated my LPN program in Dec 2005. I started at a traditional school in January 2006. By the middle of 2008, I had to drop that nursing program. I started with EC a short time later. I didn't have time for a traditional program. Thank you!
- The help provided and available to the students from the faculty and peers
- The instructors were the strength...
- The only strength I have was the self motivation to read the material and then pass the generic tests.
- The program is self paced. It allows you to continue employment as you are testing.
- The program provided the opportunity to acquire a degree while continuing to work full time and raise a family. The staff were very accessible and helpful.
- The self learning was good for me with the resources offered. I really liked having the practice exams.
- The self paced nursing theory exams and pre-requisites were well done and prepared me for the nursing theory exams.
- THE STRENGHTS OF EXCELSIOR COLLEGE IS FACULTY. ESPECIALLY, THE NURSING DEPARTMENT WITH THE CONTINUE GUIDENCE AND ENCOURAGE. THE CPNE WORKSHOP IS GREAT WITH SUE AND ELANIE IN GA THIS SUMMER.
- The strength that I feel I most take away from my experience with Excelsior College is the ability I have now to figure things out on my own. It has taught me to not give up and to keep trying until I figure it out no matter how hard it may be.
- The strengths of the online degree are you can work and take care of family while attending school with out feeling overwhelmed. Because you don't have a Professor constantly over you. It's go at your own. Pace. Most important the coach that's provided the first 6 of enrollment is a major help.
- The strengths: Opened to experienced providers and allows them to complete at their pace. / Accredited by NLN. / / Weakness: / CPNE cost and failure rate, along with stress of the exam. /
Lack free/cheap video conferences and videos of examples of how the CPNE is run and lack of videos of patient care scenarios.

- The study material, price
- Time management, disease management
- to be able to attain degree on your own time constraints
- Very flexible. Can work at own pace.
- Very goal-oriented
- Very well prepared with the available resources.
- was able to complete at my own pace and schedule exams when I felt ready to take
- Working at your own pace while maintaining a full time job. My advisors online helped me to focus my goals and responded quickly to my concerns. Another strength would be that there are many students from all parts of the U.S. which to me solidifies the impact that EC College of Nursing has made nationally.
- You can go at your own pace.
- you learn great skills for time management, organization, self teaching and prioritizing tasks
- You really have to be prepared to pass this program! I feel if I did not have / My previous training I would not have been successful! It is much more / Stressful than a traditional program!

What changes (additions or subtractions) would you recommend that Excelsior College make to the program? (N =172)

Comments:

- A few states require preceptorship hours for Excelsior college nursing graduates. I had a huge problem finding a facility/hospital and someone who could agree to do this for me. I think Excelsior should arrange this for their graduates. I heard of alot of your nursing graduates who have had this same problem and some have had to temporarily move to other states. I don't think that is fair.
- A LOT! I don't feel that the clinicals fairly judge a nurse's skills and that it does not help the student to prepare for a job in the real world. The classes online were okay, but I felt there wasn't enough preparation. The "optional" online workshops for the CPNE shouldn't be optional.
- A payment plan that includes the exams. Maybe hold transcripts or ability to test for the CPNE until paid in full.
- Additional information regarding the resources available to me clearly outlined would have been a valuable resource when I entered the program. I was very disappointed in Excelsior's information literacy and FCCA requirements-- before these courses were taken I felt that ECE was great. These courses were a JOKE, and an insult to my intelligence and my bank account. Whomever allowed such courses to be put forward made a mistake in judgment. Information literacy-- navigating the Internet, nursing journals and emoticons....really? The FCCA was so poorly put together-- it has overshadowed my overall positive outlook on the program. The
CPNE was difficult, as well it should be. I would ask that your faculty consider replacing the statement "according to established guidelines," it would greatly affect your students first time pass rates as this the only clinical experience we have with your program. Please understand that I am grateful for all the assistance your program has provided. I am very thankful for the advisory team. Nona, Amy and Claire... They were a big part of my success in this journey and provided much guidance and support. Sincerely, Christina Polasek

- Additional prep for the Cpne!! I don't think a over 600 page study / Guide is realistic for teaching someone all they need to know for that long weekend
- After completing all of the academic classes I felt lost in regard to studying for the CPNE. When speaking with an advisor regarding clarification of AOC at times I felt that my questions were not answered so I choose to not use the EC site and go through another site set up by former graduates who were able to brake down the process of creating careplans, AOC, and documenting the excelsior way. As a result of my continued participation in this group I was able to pass the CPNE. I must mention that this site was free of charge and is used by many of the EC students.
- Although the skills lab weekend was outstanding and we had Amy and (I can't remember the other ladies name) who both gave us great pointers, some did not heed their advice. They said to not go into the test thinking they way you have done things for the past 20 years is fine.....You have to do things the Excelsior way. Since I had not practiced as a nurse before, I LEARNED the Excelsior way and I was the only one of 6 that past the CPNE because I was not use to doing things the wrong way. I am grateful for all the advisers and the examiners in Lubbock who were very fair. I failed the first time and looked at it as a clinical weekend after I calmed down. Then I made a lab at home and practiced every day for 3 months and memorized all the critical steps. This cannot be over emphasized. I could not believe all the LVNs that could not pass the lab portion .Sad but they also had problems with care planning. This is another big hurdle for most..Care planning should become a mandatory course I think .Thanks, Terrie Jones
- Arrange actual clinical in various states and eliminate the CPNE.
- Be more flexible and cost effective with program
- Better clinical test not fair to pay 2000 and fail
- change the cpne format to more user friendly program. there are too many gray areas. the CE are on different pages as examiners. there needs to be more consistency. a student should not be failed over petty things
- change the CPNE to clinical hours
- Change your negative attitude toward exam preparation companies who actually introduce people to Excelsior College and help them succeed at your College.
- Changes to the CPNE exams. The passing should have percentages to pass the clinicals. / There is no difference of omissions that could fail a person such as patient care should be at 100% but the other areas need to have a passing mark. 80 to 90% / Could explain better with conversing with someone
- Clinical experience for nursing students, more communication from advisors.
- clinical requirements (apart from CPNE)
- Computer Literacy course is a joke for $400. FCCA test needs work as does the CPNE testing process.
- Cone improvement
- Constant changes with the program was a nuisance!! Constant changes to the fee structure was disheartening. When a student enrolls, what ever is agreed upon at that moment should be what they carry with them through the whole experience. Not constant changes every year. If you enroll a student for 7 years, deleting tests they already took and adding new ones with no credit towards them should be prohibited. If you need to remove tests that have already been taken then you should issue a credit for the cost of said tests towards the new tests you are requiring.
- Cost for out of state students is high. More emphasis on ASN students taking CPNE workshops. This helped me a great deal, I think I would have taken it the first time if more emphasis was put on attending it. This program takes a lot of discipline, before students enroll this should be emphasized as well. A couple of the examiners that were in my first CPNE were not friendly, some wouldn't even smile. This made a very stressful situation much more tense.
- Costs
- cpne
- CPNE - Gray exam that does not measure ones ability to be provide safe nursing practice, very subjective (I passed on my first attempt with no repeats). It measures no real nursing skills that are used in the field efficiently. Guide is written ambiguously. Very "secretive" school must have more transparency in terms of pass rates at the different regions, should be more standardized. The school does not communicate changes promptly to students (like when the FCCA changed). They just expect you to figure it out. School enrollment is also sort of gray, you pay everything and then you do not even get an email with steps on what to do. Should have more step by step instructions on how to do things. Felt that I had to "figure it out" on my own this whole time. Also advisors say different things, example with Info lit, one advisor said it took 8 weeks for grade to post no matter how fast I took it, another advisor (which was right) said it posted in a few days, which it did.
- CPNE was horrible. The wait for it ridiculous. Advisor would not really answer questions.
- CPNE allow partial credit instead of all or nothing. I don’t feel being good under stressful conditions should make or break your success as a nurse
- CPNE and FCCA should be less time consuming, incorporated together, for example as a one month hands on training in hospital option should be offered, in order to facilitate the final exam/training in shorter time.
- CPNE information, at least some of it given earlier in program especially care plans.
- CPNE is the hardest part of the program. Decrease the cost of seminar for CPNE so that more students can afford to attend it. It will increase passing scores for that exam.
- CPNE is too difficult
- cpne should be revised. very stressful for students and no room for error. maybe a clinical instead /
- Cpne turnaround time when scheduling test date and availability of sites
- CPNE workshops would be required and a week long.
• CPNE would deter me from recommending this course to others. Except for this. The program was rewarding and a positive experience.
• CPNE. Needs to not be so stressful that nurses fail when they are well prepared.
• Current program is perfect.
• Do something about CPNE!
• Early interactions with advisors to monitor student progress and help students remain on track to complete program.
• Failure rate for CPNE first attempts....
• FCCA truthfully is a waste of time.
• FCCA was a very difficult course where I was unable to learn too much from.
• feed back to the FCCA.
• First, I would shorten completion requirement time once a student has advanced beyond the completion of the theory exams. Second, I think Excelsior needs to more effectively reach out to students who have failed the CPNE. I passed the CPNE on the third try. I knew Excelsior had resources that I had not utilized to help me understand the CPNE better but after each failure, I had been really despondent. After the second failure, the CA informed me that I was "clearly not assuming the role of a professional nurse." It was nearly two years before I enrolled in a workshop that I felt had provided insight into the program that I had not gleaned previously. Aside from the CPNE failure letters, I had not heard from anyone at Excelsior. It is not unreasonable to understand how many students feel that the program is a money making venture for the school. I understand that as an adult student, I ultimately determined how I completed the program but a little more support would have been nice.
• For clinical portion of and program offer choice of preceptor ship or cpne to students
• For those taking the CPNE. let’s say you took it once and didn't pass it BUT you passed all your labs. If you retest and it is within the SAME study guide edition you wouldn't have to repeat the lab portion again, only if the study guide changed to another edition,
• General education to conventional courses need to have companion study guides to go with the textbook, the sheer volume of material to cover makes it hard to grasp key points. The course outline for some of the classes were next to useless. Specifically the Introduction to Philosophy and Blackboard Learning for practice exams made me want to scream, because it would not work with my computer.
• Get rid of the computer graded english comp essay exam and have it graded by a professor or require it to be transferred in.
• Great job Excelsior..Thank you for helping me achieve my dream and my family's dream of becoming a RN.
• have ebooks available to rent from the library pertaining to study for exams. / The clinical was a bad experience for me, I felt so patronized that I was unable to perform my nursing skills to the best of my ability/very cold sterile setting. Nursing students should be able to assess the pt. prior to being expected to compose a nursing care plan. On multiple occasions I was placed in a situation where the verbal report and chart were not an accurate description of the patient’s medical condition.
• Have helpful and caring staff
- HAVE MORE CHANCES FOR CPNE INSTEAD OF THREE DAY EXAMN.
- Have more training available for the CPNE the most stressful situation I have ever done
- Have shorter waiting periods for on the phone care plans with the advisors.
- Have study guides reflect exactly what to study for with each exam; especially with Ethics, there were many questions on the exam and the practice exams that weren't shown to know about on the study guide - this is very important, and when I emailed the department that apparently writes the tests, I received response that was very defensive and left me with a feeling that nothing would change for future test takers. / Don't add additional tests to take after all is said and done. / Decrease the annual fee. / Offer student loans. / Offer course/study assistance for students that have questions about the tests. / Give test questions that make sense; a lot of the questions didn't make sense or you really had to read into the questions to figure out what was being asked. / Allow more time to take the Ethics and similar tests which require a lot of reading during the test; some of us are slower readers and the lack of time is extremely stressful and may not allow enough time to complete the tests; lack of time means poorer grades, which is not fair to the students. / Specify EXACTLY what reading material is needed to study for the tests; some give "suggested" material, but then you can't find everything from the study guide in the book.

- I am a Case Manager UR in a local hospital. I had not done floor nursing in a few years, although I was very involved in the Pts continued of care and medical treatment while in the hospital but, I have not given out meds or performed Pt care in that capacity. What would have been helpful was a skills lab to keep me fresh and current. / The CPNE was the most difficult and challenging part of the program. I felt that I was not at all prepared, even after taking the workshop. There are other ways of studying for the CPNE that would have been helpful. I don't feel I was prepared for the care plan even after taking the online class. I think that there needs to be more emphasis on it. A majority of the students that I spoke with felt the same way. Video tutorials that are specific and more descriptive are needed. it may seem obvious to someone who does care plans on a daily basis, but sometimes a little more effort is needs to be invested in someone like myself. I must admit, after tackling the CPNE beast and understanding what exactly that is expected of me, I feel I can do anything. It is a good program, I just think it can get lost in interpretation. I had no clue What the CPNE was all about until I failed the first time. / What I thought excelsior was going to be was - realtime virtual classes and 24 hour telephonic tutoring. I know that is costly, but more students would be successful if that were the case. / I believe the program is grossly easy and needs charged up academically. I was never challenged and that saddens me, I do not feel I learned anything that I had not known as an LPN. I am however thankful for the program as it was an easy way to get my degree.
- I didn't realize I had the option to take the online conferences for the nursing courses until I was almost done with my program.
- I feel care plans are the biggest issue. I'm a visual learner so teaching myself to do care plans via FCCA(text) was extremely difficult. A step by step virtual course would be a better option. I know that Excelsior offers a 2 week documentation and care plan, however, I wasn't able to take advantage of that course because of the limited number of students allowed in that course and the availability.
• I feel like I have to learn for the first time all of the medications used in nursing because none of them were discussed in the nursing curriculum at Excelsior. I also am having to learn for the first time many other aspects of the NCLEX that I feel were not included in the curriculum. I was a bit disappointed in the preparation for NCLEX given during classes. I am thankful that Excelsior has teamed up with ATI to prepare students for the NCLEX. I feel like I would be at a total loss if it weren't for ATI.

• I really disliked the FCCA. I felt it didn't give me anything but a headache. I think the regular nursing tests were great. However, with the CPNE, I think a careplan class and a demonstration of the labs should be included in the curriculum. There is too much left to the student to figure out on their own for the CPNE. I passed the 1st time but without online groups and an online workshop (not EC but it was excellent) I would have failed the CPNE. I just feel that a school should teach what it expects a student to know. We shouldn't have to do extra workshops esp a non EC workshop in order to pass. Everyone should be taught the same stuff so everyone has an equal chance to pass. I think a careplan class should replace the FCCA.

• I really don't think I utilized the program to the full extent that I could have, I had very little contact with the college throughout the program and I think that is one thing I would do differently if I had it to do all over again.

• I recommend adding the documentation and care planning conferences to the required curriculum and getting rid of the FCCA. Of course ethics and delegating would have to be integrated into the program somewhere, though.

• I think it would be nice if some of the examinations were offered as a class

• I think maybe make the CPNE less of a test and more of a learning experience to build on the skills you already have like traditional nursing students. I think you should still have to perform as I did but have some teaching and learning involved as well.

• I think that students should be able to find hospitals In there area to do some clinical experience.

• I think that the CPNE is completely unrealistic. It does not show if someone is going to be a good nurse or not, it only shows how well someone can memorize critical elements to pass the weekend. It is not a true test of whether someone is going to be a good RN. People work so hard to get to the CPNE, and after all that time and money, the CPNE should be a lot more of a lab and learning experience. The RNs that are CEs and CAs are all masters’ nurses, we could have learned a lot from their instruction, knowledge, and experience. It is a shame that they couldn't be more helpful in getting students ready to go out into the real world of nursing.

• I think there needs to be more teaching with the FCCA and CPNE

• I think there should be a 3 days teaching clinical trials before the exam clinical weekend.

• I would add clinical practice time without the high charge for an increased success rate among students

• I would encourage a less broader approach to the study guides used in the Nursing Program. The content can be a bit global and confusing when trying to study and prepare for each exam. If the opportunity would present itself to have an option of having some online content available with an online chat, this would benefit the overall outcome of each examiner and their ability to do well.
• I would have liked a little more advisement on what was next and how I was doing time wise.
• I would like Excelsior College to collaborate with local hospitals to include clinical days in the ADN program to help students prepare better for the CPNE exam.
• I would make the study material a little more specific. But overall, the program worked for me.
• I would not change anything. I was very happy with the program.
• I would recommend restructuring of the CPNE.
• I would recommend with the FCCA that the structure be reevaluated again as the new format has been available for a year now. I feel that you do not get much out of the course as there is no rationale for the missed exams. The format did not follow the reading adequately. There was no one at EC that could assist with the course as they stated to me "I have not really had enough training in this yet." / / As for the CPNE, I know of many, including myself, that felt so much stress and strain from preparation that I resorted to medications for anxiety. This is not a norm for me and feel like if the exam was not quite as subjective and the CE's had clear explanation of the exam, as is written in the Study Guide then the grading parameters would be easier to grade and there would be less difference in the sites pass rates.
• I would recommend, as I have before, that clinical preparation workshops need to be incorporated into the program as requirements. I believe that it would help to make the CPNE experience more of a positive one. Although I understand the need to be able to perform under tense situations, I have never had such an emotionally taxing experience (in 30 years) of nursing, as I had over the CPNE, and the CE's and CA in Lubbock were absolutely wonderful! The first experience I had at CPNE in Mansfield, OH was horrible. If I had been told that I would have had to have repeated the CPNE at that site, I would have quit and applied to a traditional school of nursing.
• I would say running the program on a schedule and providing personal tutors would be of great help to many students because I think that is the challenge most students have not having a schedule or tutor.
• If you pass parts of the CPNE and fail overall.. you shouldn’t have to repeat them every time you test...
• implement changes to make the cpne less subjective. while I had a good experience regarding the cpne, a great number of students do not.
• In the CPNE program, Excelsior need to do more to alleviate students' fear of this examination and also take into consideration the financial costs of the exam where some students have to sit the exam several times with the possibility of having to repeat the program. In Florida for example, presently a whole lot of students who drop out of Excelsior program because of the rigid testtaking requirements are now using alternate sources to earn their degree. I am sure this has resulted in less enrollment out of South Florida.
• It is very hard to learn from the EC examinations because you can never see what you got wrong. That is a huge misfortune in my opinion because it does not allow you to actually "learn" What you might think you got right is totally wrong but you will never know.
• it's pretty expensive. My documentation course for the CPNE did not use all the same forms as the CPNE exam site. It seemed almost like a waste of money.
• Less ethics and more A&P
Long list. / To begin with, the CPNE process is a travesty. I understand its intent, but at present it fails horribly. It is not at all about good practice, anyone with good skills must greatly dumb themselves down for this test. It’s not about good nursing care, this test is about a horrible standard of care and understanding. Passing or failing is more a process of running a "gotcha" gauntlet. It’s a test of someone’s ability to learn to pass a test. People with good skills fail for absurd reasons. Massive restructuring, and/or alternative options, is required. I say this from the perspective of someone who passed first time with no repeats. / The subject exams are also an issue. You need a very good understanding to do well, but it’s far too easy to spend a few days with a test prep book and get by with a passing score. Far too many of the students are taking this route, and getting through without an adequate base education. The passing threshold has been set too low. / I have specific issues with transfer of general education credits, but put simply EC in practice does not follow its stated goals and objectives of its what you know not how you learned it. I have an earned doctorate, a post-doc degree, several graduate certificates, not merely from regionally accredited institutions, but from big name schools, and for about 10 years made my living ghostwriting for other people, and EC wants me to take freshman English comp because when I tested out of it 40 years ago, the test scores are no longer available. Similarly, I cannot get undergraduate credit for graduate courses. So much for its not how you learned but its what you know. / There is also the issue that hospital nursing, the predominant entry level, is rapidly changing to a BSN as the minimum for entry level. EC, as a path to a BSN, is a very long and very very expensive route. An increasing number of states will not accept EC, a major change from when I started. Knowing what I know now, I would have opted for a different route, one of the 10-14 month accelerated second degree programs. At the time that option seemed stupid, because I already had a strong clinical education.

- Make CPNE more days than just 3 days
- Make enrollment available again to Certified Surgical Technologists. So many of them want to attend..and have associate degrees in health science already. Develop an assessment test to determine who can enroll if needed. Make the CPNE a graded exam. / Pass/Fail for something so stressful,..with so many variables,..could use some change,..and the college would have a higher pass rate....
- Maybe add a practice clinical day to help ease nerves before the big three day weekend!
- Modify the FCCA process. FCCA should be offered monthly and it should give you rationals for incorrect answers.
- Modify the FCCA- TOO EXPENSIVE AND TOO DETAILED. The duration of waiting before retaking the exam is too long, making the previous learning and time put into the program a waste. FCCA can be eliminated but yet student will be well prepared.
- more affordable
- More choices to fulfill degree requirements. CPNE expectations and requirements should be fully taught at workshop and not leave the student to guess at what to expect during a very expensive stressful exam. There are far too many variables with this exam. I did really well during this exam but I can fully understand how so many things can go wrong to cause a student to be totally unsuccessful during this endeavor, through no fault of their own.
• more clinical opportunities
• More clinical preparation
• More clinical throughout program so its not all at one time
• More clinical time or something to get more experiences. I don’t know if I really feel prepared to work on the floor. I have not started my new role yet and so it is hard to tell. / The CPNE could be a little bit more flexible and not so expensive. It should be reviewed so the pass rate is a little higher the first time around.
• More focus on nclex preparation. First nclex was a fail and a lot o the material I didn't recognize the content from learning previously in nursing courses. It would be LSO nice to go right into the bsn program after completing adn in case one is not ready to ready for nclex
• more locations for cpne
• More real correspondance from advisors to students. How about you call me and ask how it is going once and a while? How about quarterly or biyearly conferences to review your status and progress?
• More time needs to be spent in the CPNE workshps on the actual writing of care plans
• MY RECOMMENDATION IS THE COST FOR THE NURSING PROGRAM WOULD BE LOWER. IT IS FINANCIALLY DIFFCULTY.
• N/A (n=3)
• Need better preparation for CPNE
• No recommendations for change at this point in time.
• None (n=7)
• None. It is an excellent College
• Not sure
• Nothing about the program adequately prepared me to take the CPNE nor do I feel that even the CPNE prepared me to actually work as an RN.
• Notice to students that some states BON require application 2 to 3 months prior to anticipated graduation. / Evaluation of clinical examiner interaction with students during testing. / Expand the clinical performance experience to align more closely with traditional education requirements.
• Offer financial aid or school loans through the college.
• Offer more support and classes in preparation for the CPNE class without having to pay extra. After paying so much money for the weekend CPNE I didn't have any extra money to attend a workshop, but the things in those classes are important and should be included in the CPNE preparation.
• Offer online classes as an option to exam credit.
• Online classes for nursing and preceptor clinicals or all clinical exam sites follow the EC study guide.
• Perhaps more time spent with your excellent nursing school staff weekend seminars or weekday not sure by once I was able to meet then at the workshop how dynamic some of them were was inspiring
• Pro rate the CPNE exam; for example first time takers pay a lesser fee and if by chance one would have to retake it than the price increases. Make the CPNE exam $1900.00 for first time
takers. I know that the price that I am suggesting is less than what it is right now but in my thoughts this is reasonable.

- Program was generally ok up to the point of CPNE. CPNE was not well explained and I did not have a very good understanding of what was expected. For example, my impression was that it was a clinical weekend with a "CE" or to my understanding a "preceptor" that would instruct/assist with patient care while evaluating my care and knowledge and then at some point give a test either daily or on Sunday. It of course was not that way. It also should be made clear that 3 attempts are to each at full cost that also was a surprise to me when I failed. It was a very expensive misunderstanding. I also believe that for those who do have to test multiple times should get credit for parts of the CPNE that they previously passed. I failed a simple lab test that I have been doing for years on my second attempt at the CPNE after passing it easily the first time. It would decrease the stress level and make the test appear more legitimate and not just looking for money by stressing the student to make simple mistakes.

- provide classroom preparedness towards CPNE IN A CLINICAL SETTING to master skills and technique in about a time frame suitable to gain knowledge

- Provide feed back in the FCCA tests. I spoke to countless instructor and advisors about this as well as the dean of nursing and was met with scoffs. The CPNE was a money maker. They were looking for any and every reason to fail all of us. I am surprised I made it out of the program. The "Master's" nurses that critiqued us at the CPNE were snobs at best. I think it's hilarious that they seriously got to fail us for seriously anything they felt like failing us on. For example, the first patient I had, the instructor failed me for putting on a blood pressure cuff the upside down. Seriously? I have been putting on cuffs for 8 years. I didn't put that cuff on upside down. For God's sake. What she said went and the woman over the weekend believed her. It was my word against theirs, and no way to prove it otherwise. The other thing that happened was that when I went in another patient's room, I went in and stayed in, through assessment and med pass. I checked my patient's arm band at the beginning of the patient situation against the kardex. Then at the end before giving meds, I checked the kardex that I had previously checked against the patient's arm band against the MAR immediately before giving the meds, AND I checked the MAR against the meds listed on the kardex provided by the instructor. The instructor stopped me when I started to give the meds because she didn't see me do this. I did do this, however, and I explained this to the woman over the weekend. She allowed me to continue, but that instructor treated me like crap the remainder of the patient care situation, and she made me pay for speaking up against her to the woman over the weekend. She was rude and hateful and short with me the rest of the PCS. Wow. I mean, how unprofessional. And no one will ever do anything about it. It will just continue to go on like it did for me that weekend. I'm the only one who made it out. There were other students who were there that weekend who did the CPNE review week with me in Dallas. She was failed for something so stupid and ignorant that it's shameful for excelsior to actually call itself accredited. I'm done.

- Provide more clinical experience. Improve the CPNE Workshop immensely.

- provide more financial one on one instruction

- provide more guidance for students during the cpne preparation
- Provide video instruction of CPNE with major emphasis in documentation, nursing diagnosis and critical thinking skills. / Reduce the cost of CPNE exam on repeat testers. Make an effort to reduce failure rate of CPNE. (having high failure rate makes Excelsior look bad. Gives the impression that Excelsior wants its students to fail so they can charge an additional 2Grand) / Send more Excelsior Grad RN's to Capital Hill to Lobby against some of the ridiculous laws placed in some States (especially California) that prevent Excelsior RN graduates from obtaining Licensure. (I have always said that the problem with all State Nursing Boards, is that they are full of nurses) / And Finally set "Patient contact Hour requirements" for Paramedics and LPN's that wish to enroll in the ASN program, that way you are sure to get a rather "seasoned" providers graduating from your programs, that don't go make idiots of themselves, and give your program a bad name.

- Provide with some kind of review material to be purchased for each module.
- Reduce costs associated with Graduation Fee, Enrollment Fee and Student Services Fees
- Reduce the subjectivity of the CPNE
- Revise entire program and focus on supporting your students
- Shorten the exit survey.
- Shorten the time between finishing exams and taking the clinical nursing exam
- Shorten wait time to take CPNE!
- shorter waiting period for CPNE exam
- The CE's and CA at Madison were magnificent. They made sure the atmosphere was non stressful and were excellent during the testing. It was like having a co-worker in the room with me. I had tested before in Atlanta and it was a much different situation. The CE's were strictly business and didn't make it any easier on stress. I admit I was not fully prepared in Atlanta, but that being said, I also took the 3 day Excelsior seminar but it was the previous edition to the test I was taking. / Assuring that anyone who's not familiar with careplans take a course on how to do careplans the excelsior way, maybe even making it mandatory, b/c that was my downfall on the first test and having to pay $2000+ for a test and having to retake it is not good for moral.

- The Clinical aspect of the program should be modified if possible.
- The clinical at the end was very nerve wracking, I think having clinicals during the nursing classes with a preceptor would be more effective then a pass or fail weekend
- The clinical needs to be more than a weekend. More of a hands on experience.
- The clinical practice needs to be much stronger. If I would have not taken then CPNE workshop, I would have never passed the CPNE. When I enter the workplace as a nurse, I feel I have will have huge disadvantage with my clinical skills.
- the clinicals make them not a test but hands on
- The CPNE is life altering. It shouldn't be as stressful as it is. Let the student care for the Pt without the scare tactic of failing and losing $2500 if the care plan is not just right. In the real world, care plans and charting are point and click. Edema is not part of a skin assessment and you get to make corrections in any other nursing school. My family and friends were almost as stressed out as I was the entire process. The labs I can see how it is important to get those IV pushed and such 1st time. The nerves are too much and no amt of Ativan can help them. I will not tell any LPN or Paramedic to get their RN through EC and it's only because of the CPNE.
• The CPNE is not practical. Although I did pass first attempt. You guys should base the grade on a rubric not pass or fail. Being a nurse I know alot of nurses who will not sign up for your program based on the pass fail grade scale for the CPNE.

• The CPNE is the most stressful situation I have encountered thus far. But if everyone passed, it really wouldn’t be an accomplishment now would it. So I guess I wouldn’t change a thing. Maybe a standing order for a prescription drug prior to the CPNE experience would be helpful!

• The cpne needs a better teaching system. Like a dvd showing exactly how to perform labs. The cd room book is pretty book but can be a little vague

• The CPNE needs some kind of grading system instead of pass fail. 65 percent pass rate is not a sign of a very valid test. It looks like to the public is just a money maker. I took it twice the first time they were petty. The feeling was they were out to find any little thing to get you. That was the atmosphere. The second time the instructors were friendly and it was a great experience. Tense but a much better testing experience.

• The CPNE needs to be structured differently

• The CPNE needs to modifications, the pass fail your out 2k to bad so sad situation is a MAJOR MAJOR distraction for prospective students and enrolled students who are inching toward their goal. Although I understand the need for the structure and rigor as to maintain accreditation, the enormous pressure is enough to fail you. I would say the CPNE was fair, if your a good nursing student.

• The CPNE process needs to be looked at and better explained when enrolling. Although I passed the first time and the instructors there were as wonderful as they could be with the regulations they must follow, it felt like a very subjective exam. They expect perfection in a world that is full of imperfect humans and circumstances and quite frankly, not possible. However, it appears that the ones that seem to have good nursing skills, refuse to give up, and do not make any obvious mistakes will pass. Minus the CPNE part, I loved my experience with Excelsior College. I still had to study hard and apply myself but found the classes to do manageable in my busy world. The only reason I will not recommend Excelsior College to anyone is because of the CPNE.

• The CPNE process remains flawed. This exam is inconsistently delivered. I understand that there will always be some variance site to site in the administration of this exam. It took me 3 times, two years, a lot of frustration and undue stress to complete this exam. I am very willing to take ownership of my mistakes but I don't believe the college has adequately addressed the inconsistencies in the delivery of this exam.

• THE CPNE, is the big gorilla in the room, I am 58 years old and have been a Paramedic educator for much of the time, working in the field and in community colleges, I have done my share of test taking and giving. it is my humble option the CPNE is real problem, you make it way to hard and set the students up for failure at a huge cost to pocket book and destroy and discourage many a good student, all of the nursing students are really not students they come to the table with lots of experience and are treated like lambs to the slaughter house. The CPNE needs to change the expectations and performances standards are not realistic. and that is why I would not rec. this program to anyone else..
• The ending process is not the greatest, I think that the CPNE should be done in the hospital with check off for skills required for clinical. I also, since the BON requires some students to do preceptorship, we should do that during our clinical experience so when we graduate it want be a delay in taking the board or getting our license.

• The English Composition test was very challenging. I am the type of person who has to think about topics before I can write a good essay. I felt like I was rushed during that exam and wasn’t able to do my best. I barely finished in the amount of time that was allowed for the exam. Maybe changing that requirement in some way.

• The EPN needs to have some revisions made. It made communication more difficult and lost a lot of previous information that was very helpful. The clinical aspect of the program could be improved by adding more interactive based instruction. Seeing how procedures/treatments are performed would be beneficial instead of just reading the steps to performing them.

• The faculty could do a better job of reaching out to students who are preparing for the CPNE. This is a very stressful time and it is hard to know just where and how to start the process. I didn’t use the phone advisement sessions as much as I should have because at times I wasn’t even sure what questions to ask. When I did use the advisement calls I felt as if the person on the other end could have been more polite and more understanding.

• The FCCA classes and tests were faulty in my opinion. The small tests throughout the classes which could be repeated if failed, appeared to have incorrect answers.

• The FCCA didn’t really benefit me too much. The CPNE should have a simpler study guide. Students are intimidated and feel ill-prepared before facing the daunted weekend.

• The FCCA needs improvement. The biggest problem was that it didn’t give any answers or rationale on the questions for the exams. If you don’t explain why the answer is wrong people won’t learn from it. I was the first online class for the FCCA so maybe that’s changed already.

• The FCCA schedule needs to be made readily available and known to students progressing through the Nursing Exams to help them better plan their course trajectory.

• The new FCCA and the CPNE were awful!

• The only thing that concerned me with the program was the amount of time waiting after completing the nursing theory examinations, to complete the FCCA’s and then to finally finish and take the CPNE. More awareness about waiting time and course expectations towards the end of the program were a surprise to me and not very well explained. My description of the program was that it was entirely self paced and at your own leisure, which it was until reaching the FCCA’s and CPNE, thank you.

• The staffs need to be on same page.

• The wait time, between finishing up an area (nursing) to be able to move onto the next area.. ie: waiting period from the fcca until you could apply for the cpne, then applying and waiting for the cpne, then when you pass the cpne having to wait to get your transcripts updated to "officially commence" before you are eligible to apply for state boards.. felt there was ALOT of waiting in between, the waiting time, totals the amount of time I actually used to meet all my requirements!! pre req and nursing courses!!!!

• The waiting time for CPN examination is too long and discouraging.
• There should be an actual course dedicated to nursing care plans and if a math is required for the degree then a math program more suited to the nursing field.

• There was too much idle time between some of the scheduling. Especially scheduling for the CPNE. I had to wait 5 months. No one told me I needed a fingerprint card ahead of time, they assumed I had one. I had been licensed many years before they were required and was grandfathered in. That took extra time. I think there should be more testing sites for the CPNE, especially for the western part of the US. Sometimes I had scheduling difficulty with the Pearson Vue sites. I also think way too much emphasis was placed on the care plans and paperwork for the CPNE instead of clinical skills. I sometimes felt the associates were looking to find things to fail you on. Although I passed on my first attempt that is one experience I would never wish to repeat. I think the cost for the CPNE was too much.

• There’s too much waiting at the end of the program. From having to take the FCCA classes at the schools pace to the waiting for your Clinical weekend to waiting for graduation and then waiting to get the ok to take your NCLEX. My last class was 08/2012 and at this time I'm still waiting to take the NCLEX. Thankfully I have a good paying, full time job now but if I didn't, I would be in trouble. There should be some way of cutting down on the waiting.

• To shorten the program, it takes too much time to do all requirements. To develop clear study guides for nursing examinations.

• too expensive and deceptive charges

• Transparency towards the end of the program, including but not limited to CPNE pass rates (first time etc), average wait times for the various CPNE regions, and clarification of the FCCA/CPNE at the beginning of the program.