

ABSTRACT

Developing Competencies in Clinical Practice: The Lived Experiences of Four Final [sic] Students of Nursing

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This phenomenological study sought to explore the experiences of four final-year student nurses, and to investigate how they developed their competencies in clinical practice. Data were collected through interviews held with the participants (two male and two female) who attended a school of nursing in South Trinidad. The following themes emerged from the data collected: 1) clinical training, 2) mentoring, 3) self-directed learning, 4) clinical environment, 5) attitudes, and 6) teaching strategies. The study revealed that the participants' desire for increased clinical teaching, effective mentoring in the clinical environment, a clinical environment that encourages and supports self-directed learning and attitudinal changes by nursing staff in the clinical area, and the continuous use of traditional strategies for teaching in clinical practice.

Keywords: Nursing students; Skill development; Educational experience; Clinical practice; Trinidad and Tobago