

Outside the Classroom and into the Capital: Strengthening the DNP's Role as a Policy Advocate

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- No disclosures to report

Learner Objectives

1. Discuss barriers to influencing health policy in the DNP role.
2. Explore learning experiences that can improve perceived relevance and socialization to nursing policy roles.
3. Use innovative techniques, grounded in theory, to strengthen the ability to serve as a policy advocate.

“Nurses must see policy as something they can shape rather than something that happens to them.”

IOM: [*The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health.*](#)

(RWJF, 2014)

Health Policy: Why is it important?

- Scope of practice issues
- Current problems in health care delivery
- DNP Essentials (AACN, 2006)

Barriers to Involvement:

- Lack of perceived relevance to nursing
- Inadequate socialization to policy roles
- Lack of time
- Heated political environment

DNP: Teaching Health Policy and Advocacy

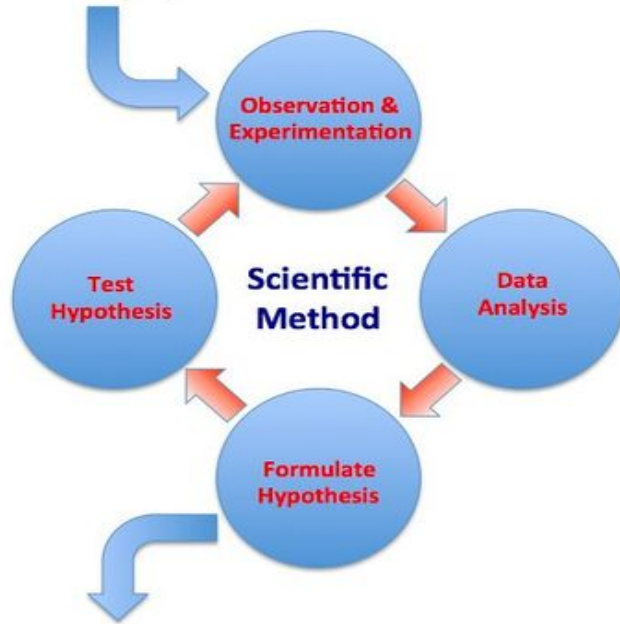
- Grounded in theory
- Innovative teaching approach
- Focus on service and sustainable solutions

THEORY

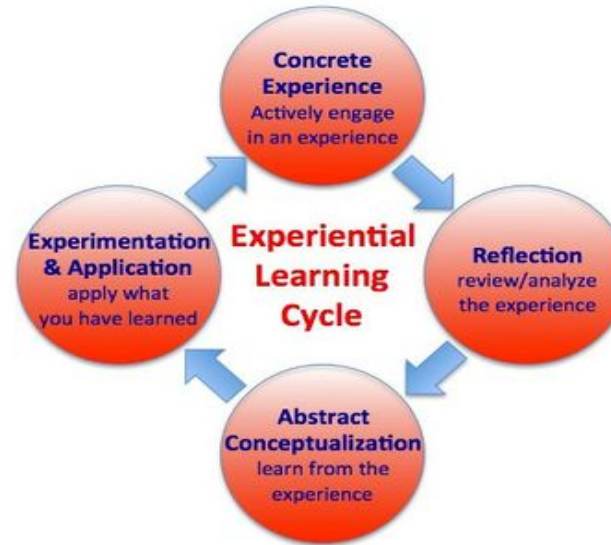
Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle



Identify a problem...



THEORY: A hypothesis that has stood the test of time...



Experiential Learning: Takeaways

- Learning is a holistic process
- Personalize experiences and encounters
- Transformation of experience
- Reflection of experience

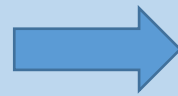
(Finch et al, 2015)

Active Learning Strategies

“Sage on the Stage”

“Guide on the Side”

(Gilboy, et al., 2014)

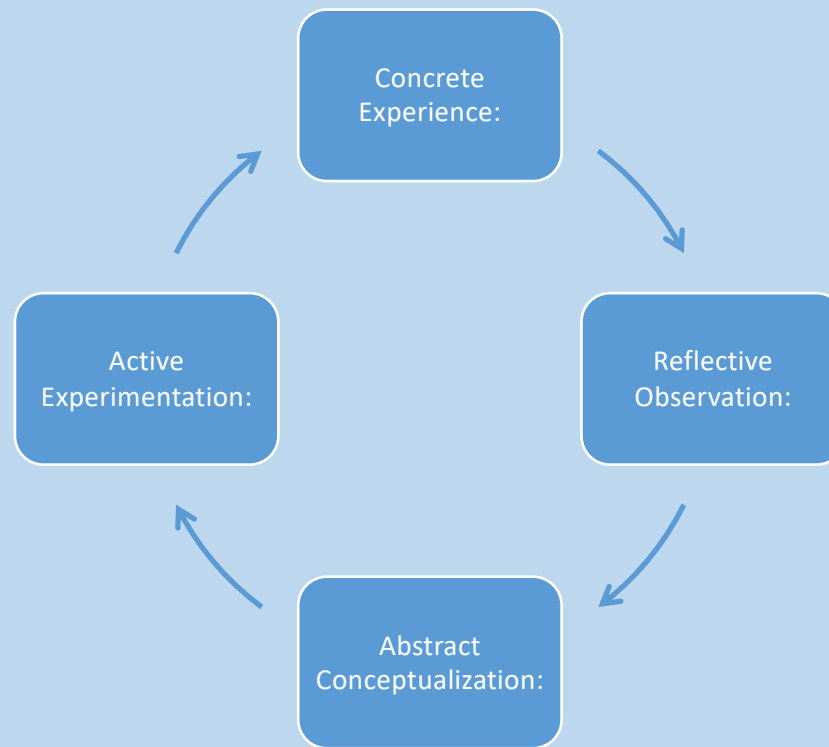


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on April 24, 2017

Health Policy Guided by Kolb's Learning Cycle:



Outside the Classroom and into the Capital

- Participation in legislative days shows increased enthusiasm and engagement.
- Political astuteness, learned through experiential learning activities, may cultivate values and beliefs about the importance of nursing advocacy and socialization into the role.

(Primomo & Bjorling, 2013)

No Capital, No Problem

- White Papers
- Social Media Use
- Op-Eds

- Collaboration among educators, professional organizations, health care agencies, and nonprofits may also facilitate nurses' influence on health policy.

(Primomo & Bjorling, 2013)

The Power of Networking

- Invite policy advocates to participate in classes
- Provide access to mentors
- Provide up to date information about legislative Issues
- Model advocacy roles

(Primomo & Bjorling, 2013)

Experiential policy-oriented activities sends a powerful message about the importance of being involved.

(Primomo & Bjorling, 2013)

Supporting Evidence

- Participation in public policy learning activities increased political astuteness mean scores.
- Active learning experiences can increase knowledge and skills needed to influence policy.

(Byrd et al, 2012)

Putting it into Practice

Application to DNP Nursing Education:

- Student-centered framework for translating theory into practice
- Considers student-centeredness, accountability and self-determination

(Betihavas et al, 2016)

Application to DNP Nursing Education:

- Useful for policy discussions
- May be modified to a variety of topics outside of health policy and advocacy

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