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Effect of Virtual Dementia Tour on Prelicensure Student Nurses' Attitudes Towards Dementia Care: A Quantitative Study Protocol

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Alton, Kevin, "Effect of Virtual Dementia Tour on Prelicensure Student Nurses' Attitudes Towards Dementia Care: A Quantitative Study Protocol" (2023). *Symposium of Student Scholars*. 223.
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Title: Effect of Virtual Dementia Tour on Prelicensure Student Nurses' Attitudes Towards Dementia Care: A Quantitative Study Protocol

Presenter: Kevin Alton

Introduction: With over six million Americans currently living with dementia, it is crucial for prelicensure nursing programs to prepare registered nurses to provide quality care to individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Due to the challenges associated with providing face-to-face clinical experiential learning, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual simulation approaches are now being used as alternative or complementary clinical experiential teaching/learning methods.

Design: Quantitative Research

Purpose: To evaluate the effectiveness of the Virtual Dementia Tour on prelicensure student nurses' attitudes towards dementia care.

Methods: This study is nested in a larger ongoing multisite, mixed-methods crossover-experimental designed study that investigates the combined effect of an e-learning module with a Virtual Dementia Tour on knowledge and attitudes towards person-centered dementia care in prelicensure nursing education. Quantitative data on attitude will be collected using the dementia care attitudes scale (DCAS) via an anonymous survey. In April 2023, we will extract DCAS data collected from the main dataset and use the IBM SPSS 29 version to analyze it using paired T-tests to determine if there is a statistically significant difference between the pre- and post-scores. Our study findings will be presented at the Fall 2023 KSU Symposium for student scholars, and we plan to submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed student journal for publication by August 2023

Conclusion: This study's findings could provide potential valuable insights into the impact of the Virtual Dementia Tour on prelicensure nursing students' attitudes towards dementia care. Also, the results of the study could contribute to the current knowledge about the effectiveness of a virtual experiential approach for teaching dementia care.