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## "The Research will Focus on Nursing Students' Learning to Provide End-of-Life Care for Individuals and Families"

Rita Ferguson

*University of Alabama in Huntsville*

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**The Expanding Horizons through Research Program**  
**A Research or Creative Experience for Undergraduates (RCEU)**  
**Summer 2015**

Faculty or Research Mentor -

Rita Ferguson, PhD, RN  
College of Nursing  
Phone: 256-824-2467  
rita.ferguson@uah.edu  
NB350  
301 Sparkman Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35899

Project Summary –

The research will focus on nursing students' learning to provide end-of-life care for individuals and families. The RCEU student will work with the mentor to develop a simulation scenario on imminent death. Upon completion of developing the simulation scenario, nursing students will be recruited to participate in a mixed-method study to identify their perspectives regarding providing end-of-life nursing care. The student will conduct the simulation with the mentor and learn skills associated with simulation management. A simulated scenario of patient and family experiencing end-of-life care needs will be utilized. The silver hour model (Smith-Stoner, 2014) will be the conceptual framework for the scenario. The study's purpose is improving nursing students' comfort when providing end-of-life nursing needs to patient and family members. These needs include therapeutic communication, symptom management, and patient-centered care.

Student Duties –

The student will do a literature search regarding nursing students perspectives related to end-of-life care. Using the silver hour model (Smith-Stoner, n.d.), the student will develop a simulation scenario and work with the mentor to implement the simulation. After the simulation is developed on paper, the student will set up the needed equipment and props for use during the simulation experience. The student and mentor will conduct the simulation without participants to identify potential problems prior to running the simulation with nursing student participants. The student will assist with operating the simulator and acting as the patient voice during the simulation. Student will be involved with recruiting participants, assisting with pre and posttest administration to nursing students participating in the simulation, interviewing participants for qualitative data, and analyzing quantitative and qualitative results. Upon completion of the simulation study, the student and mentor will disseminate results in multiple venues. Research findings will be used to support planned curriculum changes in the College of Nursing and continue research related to nursing education and end-of-life nursing care.

Mentor Supervision and Interaction –

Student will work and report directly with the study proposer, Rita Ferguson.

Timeline:

May 26, 2015: Begin date

Mentor and student meet to identify study problem and purpose

Student begins literature research

June 1, 2015: Mentor provides simulation guidelines from the Silver Hour Model (Smith-Stoner, 2014)

Work with mentor to develop simulation for imminent death

June 8, 2015: Student will gather supplies and prepare simulation for conduction at College of Nursing

June 15, 2015: Recruit participants for study and simulation participation

Do pretest regarding participants concerns about providing end-of-life care

June 22, 2015: Student and mentor conduct simulation without participants

June 29, 2015: Mentor and Student perform simulation with study participants

Student obtains post-test after simulation is completed

Participants are interviewed by student and mentor for qualitative data of concerns related to end-of-life nursing care

July 6, 2015: Mentor and student analyze data

Mentor and student observe simulation videos

July 13, 2015: Study results reviewed by mentor and student

July 20, 2015: Student prepares documentation of study results

July 27, 2015: Complete study

Study end date: July 31, 2015

Evaluation will be based on development of simulation scenario, involvement in conducting the simulation, participation in research, and dissemination of results.

#### Reference

Smith-Stoner, M. (2014). Silver hour: Flexible model for end of life care. Retrieved from [http://silverhour.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/silver\\_hour\\_introv1.0.pdf](http://silverhour.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/silver_hour_introv1.0.pdf)

Smith-Stoner, M. (n.d.). Silver hour model. Retrieved from <http://silverhour.info/model>