

Abstract

Original Article

Career Orientations of Nursing Students: A Comparison of State and Private Universities

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Abstract

Objective: This study was designed to identify and compare the career orientations of nursing students enrolled at state and private universities.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional design was used. The study was carried out at the nursing schools of two state and four private universities in Istanbul. Participants enrolled in the 3rd and 4th year of the nursing program at these universities were targeted without using a sampling selection. Data were collected from 505 of 961 students. Data collecting tool was consisting of 43 questions on the students' personal, professional and future plans.

Results: It was determined that the majority of the students (52.5%) had nursing in their top three choices for college, while not as many (14.5%) thought of nursing as their ideal career. Highly significant differences were observed in comparison of state and private university students with respect to "Receiving career guidance during education", "Desire to receive career guidance", "Desire to work as a nurse", "Desired field of work upon graduation", "The nature of the institution of highest preference in job application", and "The reason for getting a graduate degree".

Conclusions: It was determined that career counseling did impact the students' decision. There were differences between state and private university students in the counseling they received, and their career tendencies and orientations.

Keywords: Nursing student, Career choice, Nursing education, Nursing schools.