As work has continued on academic progression, one of the barriers identified was the lack of consensus on general education foundational courses. As a result, the Future of Nursing, Campaign brought together a small workgroup of community college, university, regulation, and practice representatives to address this issue. The resulting information is the outcome of the meeting and provides a guideline for community colleges and universities in identifying foundational courses for assisting in nursing academic progression.
Moving Forward

• April 2014 a meeting was hosted by APIN titled-- *Moving Forward: A National Dialogue on Academic Progression in Nursing* to discuss common issues including inconsistent admission qualifications, prerequisites, general education requirements, etc.

• A recommendation from the meeting was for to provide consistent prerequisites/general education requirements for BSN education.
Work Group Meeting

• July 2014: Follow up workgroup meeting held
• Attendees were a sub group of a larger meeting representing ADN, BSN, Practice, Campaign for Action staff
• Work Group Goals:
  1. Analyze prerequisite and general education requirements across APIN projects
  2. Propose an “ideal set” of prerequisite and general education courses as national standards
Goal 1

Analyze Requirements Across Academic Progression Projects

Findings:
• Lack of consistency of specific prerequisite courses / general education courses found

Recommendations:
• Focus on general set of requirements
• Change language to “Foundational” Courses
Analyze Requirements Across Academic Progression Projects

Rationale:

• The term *Foundational* is broader, encompasses courses without concern when in program they occur.
• Many courses are also common to ADN education.

**Example:** Pathophysiology as prerequisite course or as a nursing course.
Goal 2:

Propose Foundational Courses Leading to BSN

4 Categories

– Gen Ed (24 credits +/-)
– Basic Sciences (12 credits +/-)
– Social Sciences (9 credits +/-)
– Human Sciences (16 credits +/-)

Total Foundational Credits: 60-64 credits
Examples of General Education Courses:

- Communications Courses
- English Courses
- Humanities Courses
- Fine Arts Courses
- Mathematics
- History
- Statistics / Logic Courses
Basic Science Courses
(12 credits +/-)

Examples of Basic Science Courses:
• Chemistry Courses
• Biology Courses
• Microbiology Courses
Social Science Courses:

- Psychology
- Growth/Development / Lifespan
- Sociology
Human Science Courses
(16 credits +/-)

Human Science Courses:
• Anatomy & Physiology
• Pathophysiology
• Nutrition
• Pharmacology
Benefits of Standardized Foundation

- Facilitate admission process and curriculum development.
- Enhance transfer and acceptance of credits.
- Enhance consistency in foundation for professional nursing practice.
- Maximizes flexibility to accommodate unique requirements of various schools.
Application and Next Steps

• Review current program requirements compared to recommended foundation courses.
• Conduct assessment among collaborating institutions to determine alignment.
• Engage in discussion with state action coalitions to enhance academic progression.
• Engage in discussion with state board of nursing and accrediting agencies.
First steps - Think Tank session #2

- Hear from two states about the application of the BSN Foundational Courses.
- Explore how the BSN foundational courses will be implemented in the emerging model.