



Employment status of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates of the University of Northern Philippines Batch 2014-2016

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Abstract: This study determined the employment status of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates of the University of Northern Philippines (UNP) Batch 2014-2016. It made use of the descriptive-survey method of research. The respondents were the 166 BSN graduates from 2014-2016. A survey questionnaire-checklist formulated by the researchers based from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) tracer study instrument was used to gather the data. Frequencies and percentage were used in the statistical treatment of data. Based on the findings, it is hereby concluded that majority of the respondents were employed one year after graduation, working as staff nurses, and are currently employed within the province of Ilocos Sur. The following recommendations are hereby forwarded: 1) Conduct another study that will encompass a larger number of respondents; 2) Similar studies should be conducted in the Master of Arts in Nursing Program; 3) The university in general through the Office of the Students Affairs and the College of Nursing in particular should establish partnership with other agencies to further increase the employment of its graduates; and 4) The College of Nursing should also gather feedback from the employers of its graduates to evaluate their work performance.

Keywords: Employment status, survey-questionnaire, tracer study.

1. Introduction

Nursing has always been considered to be one of the noblest professions. It has always been regarded as the pro-human and nurses have been known of their selfless caring and tireless service regardless of someone's economic status.

After graduation, graduates are often tasked with a greater responsibility in looking for a job. Crucially, the ability of a graduate to realize or actualize things that he learned from school depends on the individual's personal and external circumstances and the inter-relationship between the two (Tabbuac, 2010).

University of Northern Philippines as one of the oldest university in Luzon, has responded to the call of the nursing profession when it established by Hon. Carmeling P. Crisologo. For its year of existence, the former institute, now known as the college of nursing has continuously produced world-class graduates amidst the challenges of the profession.

During the previous years, nurses were so in demand overseas and this has driven Filipino away from the country. This has led to the mass migration of nurses, even prompting doctors to take up nursing. However, at present, there is a problem in the employment of nurses here and abroad. Health institutions in the country do not offer new items for hiring nurses. On the other hand, produces of getting their work abroad are complicated and require a lot of expenses from the nurse who want to apply.

It is therefore important that schools must keep tracks of their graduates to determine the extent of progress made by them in their adjustments to the world of work. Further through follow-up of graduates, some information which suggests need for improvement of the school program, data

essential to continuous appraisal and modification of curriculum and other services will be gathered. This study could be used to get systemic feedback from former students to know their whereabouts, their working conditions and their retrospective assessment of their course of study which may serve as basis to conduct revisions for more productive graduates.

2. Research Methodology

This study determined the employment status of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Graduates of University of Northern Philippines Batch 2014-2016. Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions on the employment profile of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Graduates of University of Northern Philippines Batch 2014 and 2015 such as number of years to be employed after graduation, nature of work, and place of employment.

This study made use of the descriptive-survey method of research. The respondents were the 166 BSN graduates from 2014-2016 from the College of Nursing, University of Northern Philippines, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur. A survey questionnaire-checklist formulated by the researchers based from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) tracer study instrument was used to gather the data. The researchers personally distributed and retrieved the questionnaire-checklist. Frequencies and percentage were used in the statistical treatment of data. The researchers made sure that ethical principles were considered during the course of the study.

3. Result and Discussion

Table 1 reveals that a great number of the respondents (64 or 38.55%) were employed one year after graduation. Moreover, a substantial percentage of the respondents (56 or 33.73%) of the respondents were employed in within the year of their graduation.

Table 1. Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of the Number of Years to be employed after Graduation

Items	N	%
Within the year	56	33.73
One year after	64	38.55
2-3 years after	31	18.68
Never Hired	11	6.63
No Response	4	2.41
TOTAL	166	100.0

However, 11 of the respondents (6.63%) were never hired since they have enrolled in the Doctor of Medicine program. Therefore, the data signifies that UNP-CN graduates of 2014-2016 are likely to be employed within a short period of time following their graduation.

Additionally, majority of the respondents (122 or 73.50%) are working as staff nurses in the hospital. In addition, a graduate is working as Industrial Nurse (1 or .60%) and School Nurse (1 or .60%) at present while three (1.81%) currently have ventured outside nursing practice and work as medical scribe, caregiver and as missionary.

Table 2. Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of their Nature of Work
Mother-Respondents on Asthma

Items	N	%
Staff Nurse	122	73.50
Nurse Development Program Nurse	8	4.82
Rural Health Unit Nurse	3	1.81
Industrial Nurse	1	.60
Nurse Aide	8	4.82
Office Worker	5	3.01
Student	11	6.62

School Nurse	1	.60
Others	3	1.81
No Response	4	2.41
TOTAL	166	100.0

Moreover, majority of the respondents (119 or 71.69%) are employed locally while 32 (19.27%) are working abroad and 11 (6.63%) are currently studying to be a licensed physician. Among the graduates who are working locally, a marked percentage of the respondents (94 or 79.0%) are employed within the province of Ilocos Sur while 12 of them (10.08%) are working in the National Capital Region. On the other hand, among graduates who are working abroad, a substantial percentage of the respondents (17 or 53.13%) are working the United States of America and in Canada while two (6.25%) are currently employed in the United Kingdom and two (6.25%) in Southeast Asia respectively.

Table 3. Distribution of the Respondents in Terms of their Place of Employment

Items	N	%
Local	119	71.69
Within Ilocos Sur	94	79.00
Outside the Province	13	10.92
National Capital Region	12	10.08
Abroad	32	19.27
U.S.A and Canada	17	53.12
Middle East	8	25.0
United Kingdom	2	6.25
Southeast Asia	2	6.25
Australia and New Zealand	3	9.38
Student	11	6.63
No Response	4	2.41
TOTAL	166	100.0

4. Conclusion

Based on the findings, it is hereby concluded that majority of the respondents were employed a year after their graduation, working as staff nurses, and are currently employed within the locality.

5. Recommendations

The following recommendations are hereby forwarded: 1) Conduct another study that will encompass a larger number of respondents; 2) Similar studies should be conducted in the Master of Arts in Nursing Program; 3) The university in general through the Office of the Students Affairs and the College of Nursing in particular should establish partnership with other agencies to further increase the employment of its graduates; and 4) The College of Nursing should also gather feedback from the employers of its graduates to evaluate their work performance.

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