

Dear Ms. Ashley,

Thank you for allowing our Health Policy Ambassador group to speak with your students earlier this month. We wanted to provide you with the information that we gathered from the focus group about membership in professional nursing organizations.

The following are themes that emerged from the discussion:

Engagement

- Many students are or plan to be engaged in a nursing organization
 - 50-60% currently belong to the student nurses association and the same number of students intend to join a professional nursing organization after graduation.
- Most students expressed interest in discipline specific organizations and in discipline specific learning opportunities

Membership Expectations

- Students have a positive view of the student nurses association at UAB
- Collaboration, mentorship and leadership programs are the top interests

Membership Barriers

- Cost (membership dues), limited time (new nurses feel that they have enough on their plates), and unknown benefits of membership are major factors for students who are not engaged or do not plan to engage in a nursing organization

Opportunities for Education about Professional Nursing Organizations

- It does not seem that students understand the impact that advocacy can have on protecting the nursing profession as a whole and are apprehensive about personal advancement/protection
- The students did not seem to understand all of the perks of joining professional organizations, such as getting to play a role in advocacy and policy change

We hope the BSN faculty find this information beneficial. Thanks to you and the rest of the BSN faculty for your generosity of time this semester!

Sincerely,

Pam, Emma Kate & Agasthya