

Research Brief: Essential Elements

Research Briefs are manuscripts that focus on pilot studies in nursing education, studies based on a single site, and studies with small samples that would limit generalization. Submissions of original articles should **not exceed 6 pages including references**. They must be typed double-spaced, with 1-in. (2.54-cm) margins on all sides. Pages must be numbered consecutively.

The following template is a recommended format for a research brief. Each of these areas is considered by reviewers for determining the rigor and significance of the research. Please review prior to submitting a manuscript.

Abstract (narrative abstract no more than 100 words)

Introduction

Provide clear sense of problem of study (establish significance)

Review of the Literature/Background

What is known & not known (use current literature – 5 years or less)

Theoretical framework

Rationale for study leading to study purpose

Research question(s)

Methods & Design

Specify design

Human subjects protection (Institutional Review Board –IRB)

Sample/setting

Sampling procedure

Determination of sample size (power analysis or saturation)

Demographics of sample

Instruments/measurement

Description

Psychometrics for quantitative studies (reliability and validity)

Procedure

Identify steps for data collection

Data Analysis – describe methods used

Measures to establish trustworthiness (qualitative studies)

Results/Findings

Discussion of Findings

Comparison to current research, literature, & theory

Implications

Recommendations for nursing education

Limitations

Conclusions/Future research

Conclusion must be based on the study findings

How findings advance the science of nursing education

Next steps

References (only most relevant and current, less than 10)

Do not include Tables and Figures. If requested by reviewers, inclusion will be at the discretion of the editor.