

# Core Abilities Spring 2016 Student SLO Report

Spring 2016

May 2, 2016

## Q8 - As a result of this program: I learned critical thinking skills.

Answer	%	Count
Strongly Disagree	3.74%	14
Disagree	0.08%	3
Neither Agree nor Disagree	2.41%	9
Agree	41.18%	154
Strongly Agree	51.87%	194
Total	100%	374

## Q9 - Provide any comments you have on critical thinking skills you learned.

Xxxx loves a puzzle, and she really went out of her way to make us think through unusual situations. For example, one day in the lab she made us pretend we were in a rural hospital with limited equipment, then ran us through simulations that forced us to get very creative with our equipment. (Xxxxx also contributed to my critical thinking, but that lab with Xxxx really stood out for me). As RTs we have to troubleshoot equipment all of the time, so this focus was very important for us.

Through in class work, assignments, and tests, I have learned how to gather pertinent patient data and use it to make sound treatment decisions.

A lot of projects where we didn't have our hand held through it. These projects required critical thinking on our own

I learned that you have to be a critical thinker through the program so that you can use it with the children through play as well as with the families or parents especially.

Thinking on the fly

This is a strong component of this program. We had to use critical thinking for all patient related learning.

Continuous quality improvement project

This program has really helped me with my thinking skills.

This is another skill that I already had.

Case Analysis & Reporting was instrumental in my development in this area.

I learned the importance of really thinking through a problem. Just going step by step in my head to solve the problem. I have even created graphs and lists in some classes to help use my critical thinking skills.

I have learned how to create forms, databases, present, without giving directions.

It's important to be able to make decisions under pressure. In a real job you will have to make decisions that will affect everyone in the company.

We did many projects that made us think about the options and the answers. Sometimes there may have been multiple answers and we had to choose the best one.

Always thinking of what could happen and how to change it

I learned to take my time with things to think about what I have to do in a week and get it all done.

I don't think that is a skill that can be learned. I think you either have it or you don't.

Everything we did in all the classes tied to this program provided tasks where you needed critical thinking skills. Without these skills, I wouldn't have done as well as I did and to have different thinking skills explained more than helped.

Process of elimination

I learned how to troubleshoot very fast

There was a lot of critical thinking that is done in this program. Most classes needed some kind of critical thinking by following guidelines, thinking about projects and assignments, and coding in general.

I definitely learned critical thinking skills as the coding aspect of this program teaches you to perceive information correctly in an attempt to correctly code for billing and reimbursement which is very important in a hospital or clinical setting! It also teaches you critical thinking skills when it comes to problem solving in the managerial role with different problems that could arise with HIPAA breaches or even scheduling purposes. there are many times in the process of coding you must be able to think like a doctor would and be able to pick out if there is missing information.

This is one thing we did learn in how to think things through.

I am a much better critical thinker now because of this program.

I have learned to look deeper into scenarios. I have become more detail oriented.

With this program it is strongly encouraged to think critically.

The number one skills I have learned is interviewing skills (referrals, in-takes, etc) and boundaries issues.

Instructors were very good at challenging our thinking, even if our beliefs or answers were not wrong. It helped to broaden my open-mindedness and willingness to remain teachable.

If it wasn't for this program and curriculum I never would have learned the critical thinking skills I did.

XXX definitely encouraged us as future/current human service workers to think outside of the box and be with the client, not ahead or behind them. It's essential to have critical thinking skills in this field as things are black and white, there's not going to be RIGHT answer for every situation and I feel my critical thinking skills were definitely increased due to XXX's teaching methods.

I have made use of critical thinking skills in both my field placements and my related job

I created a whole new program using my critical thinking skills that I learned.

We did learn some important critical thinking skills during our face to face classes.

I have learned to always be thinking while seeing a patient because you never know what may need to be done.

The program requires you from the beginning to get a handle on critical thinking skills and by the end of the program you think outside of the usual box.

I always have to think on my feet because each patient is different.

I appreciate how this program builds on critical thinking skills throughout the semesters. By 4th semester I feel like I am competent to take care of patients and if I have questions I am not afraid to ask.

I am able to address changes in patient assessments and apply it to their plan of care.

I truly enjoyed the concept maps we had to do. It lets you combine all your knowledge and encouraged critical thinking. I also like that the faculty members challenged you to critically think in clinical.

It is unbelievable to think of how different my critical thinking skills are compared to when I just started the program and how I am able to put information together differently than before the nursing program.

Thank you XXX XXXXX and XXXX XXXXXXXX - you two are wonderful!

I knew the things that I was doing in clinical and work were important but now I really understand why!

All the clinical prep really ning

To think and apply the concept of how and why is my patient reacting to the conditions or medications and what can I do as an RN to better help my patient through this challenge.

Choosing the best right answer is part of the critical thinking involved in nursing. The hard part for a student is connecting all the relevant information and discarding the irrelevant. Many times I have read questions and answered them wrongly and wished I could justify my thinking so that I could see how or where I went wrong. Sometimes when shown how I was wrong I have doubts. Nursing has a lot, perhaps too much, "gray area" and this makes the profession dangerous to lawsuits and burnout. I also find that for a nurse to be an effective critical thinker, a nurse needs to work with minimal distractions. Recently, it has been reported by a scientific journal that not only is the human mind terrible at multitasking but those that frequently multitask have decreased IQ. The science went on to show that the chemical residue from a distraction can take as long as a half an hour to dissipate from the brain area it was released. I am very worried for the future of nursing that requires instant charting, multiple medications, assessments, patients and telephones to be instantly reached. How can a nurse critically think about complex health issues when inundated with this vast level of distraction? As students we are expected to apply critical thinking with new technology, new information in a timely manner. I fear that Western's "One Size Fits All" policy is causing many students to drop out or fail out. Finally, I understand that Western offers assistance for those with disabilities, but what I have discussed isn't a disability issue, rather a different ability issues as in preferred learning style, and pace.

The instructors have been a great influence on developing my critical thinking skills.

I can't believe the change I have noticed in every aspect of my life.

nursing is all about critical thinking.

The exams were very difficult at first, but once I got to third semester I felt I was finally starting to get the hang of how questions on exams would be and how to critically think about them. Having the exam preview and reviews were very beneficial for learning how to critically think and to learn how to answer exam questions.

I learned prioritization skills.

Like I mentioned above, my way of thinking as definitely changed! I had to learn fast on how "to think like a nurse" but now that I am completing this program, I really do feel that I am thinking that way.

My critical thinking skills have developed greatly throughout this program determining priority needs for those im caring for

This program has helped me to think more about any issues or problems and be a detective.

Used everyday all day. very helpful thing I have learned

Problems it lab tasks made a person think of all possible causes, narrow them down, test them, and fix.

Many of the problems presented force us to think through problems on our own in order o figure out solutions.

I can think thoroughly now

Think more about cause and effect situations.

have to work through problems every day

The labs that we did make you think about what could be wrong and how to fix it.

Great things were discussed

Things I didn't even know that existed, gave me new insight on business matters.

I enhanced my critical thinking skills but I did not really learn anything new about it.

In all of my classes, we had to use critical thinking.

I have always been a critical thinker but this gave me more options to consider and watch out for.

I feel like if the students couldn't figure it out the teachers would just give us the answer or they wouldn't even know.

I was able to learn how to work with stubborn people and get them to work when they don't want to.

You always have to critical think

A lot of what we learned we had to figure out ourselves so we had to critically think it through. It did help but was frustrating at times.

I am able to to think on stuff an easier way and come to a conclusion a lot quicker.

To think out of the box

That is a debatable question. Depends on the day. Not much critical thinking is needed at school because everything is layed out for a person. But out in the real world, yes it is needed everyday.

the only class we actually learned trouble shooting skills in was electrical...

Learned how to be efficient in critical thinking and thinking logically.

I learned how to diagnose trucks efficiently and quickly.

I believe the core function of this program is methodology, not critical thinking.

The critical thinking skills I learned can help me in my time management skills.

You're liberals.

Being able to make changes on my projects to protect it.

I feel like I have mastered ways to use and apply critical thinking in day to day living.

There's a good question- definitely did. Lots of hands on labs where we were given an expected outcome and had to piece it together from nothing. Very challenging, often frustrating, but the only way to pick up these skills.

Troubleshooting the numerous labs that didn't quite work right was a great learning experience, albeit unexpected.

I learned that people come from different background and I learned to be more understanding of others and their thoughts/feelings.

I was fairly logical before, but those skills have definitely improved.

I already had these skills from life experiences: Military life, work life, previous education. My instructor for "Thinking Critically and Creatively", XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX, is a very nice person and was enthusiastic about teaching this course, but for me it was COMPLETE waste of time. I contacted (them) at the very beginning of this program (two years ago) and asked if there was any way I could test out but was told the state of WI hadn't developed any such test. I think that was just an excuse but I didn't push the envelope. The course should be dropped from the Program Requirements lists and/or the college should offer a way to test out for students like me (an NTS.)

I am already a great thinker and I usually think outside of the box. I was able to build on what I already knew through Thinking Critically and Creatively.

Critical Thinking was one of the most useless classes I have taken in academics.

I have enjoyed the critical thinking questions in my psychology class. They make you think along with learn the material.

I learned how to fix problems in the sales field and turn a bad situation around into something positive.

When working with area businesses, the unexpected happens. It created a very real-world environment that I would not have gotten at a 4-year college who only does case studies.

The sales classes helped me learn to think in ways to overcome obstacles

I learned how to break apart and analyze sites for many different applications including design, planting, construction, and so on.

This program has thought me confidence in myself and how to think on my feet. For plan A, there's always got to be a plan B. I used to hate critical thinking questions, but now it is kind of try trying to figure things out with the knowledge I have.

It is a "think on your feet" kind of profession

This program has definitely helped me with my critical thinking skills because we learn to anticipate the needs of the surgeon and the team and solve problems through out the case. I use my mind a lot during the day!

No two surgeries are the same, even if they are on paper. Things happen and you have to be ready to adapt to whatever is going to happen, anticipation is key.

I learned to do some projects in a short amount of time and to the best of my ability, which forced me to find solutions "on the fly" in the field. Also, when equipment fails or doesn't work as expected, I needed to have a backup plan.

I found ways to work around problems.