

THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF THE STUDENT BODY IN THE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS

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The student body is a key element in the dynamics of the postgraduate programs, since it is the product of the process of formation of human resources of excellence. The progress of scientific and technological knowledge that is strongly driven by the postgraduate programs is closely related to the quality of the education of Masters and Doctors. These young researchers will be responsible for the future education of qualified human resources and, especially, for the fostering of research and innovation in different contexts. The importance of the student body has motivated its characterization as one of the distinguishing elements for the performance of postgraduate programs. Thus, qualified education and the increase in the participation of students in the bibliographical production of the postgraduate programs are strongly desired.

In relation to the postgraduate programs in nursing, the increase in the demand for doctorates is an essential strategy. Among the strategies to stimulate the acquisition of a doctorate, besides the ones involved in the very expansion of postgraduate programs to underprivileged areas, in a more restricted sense, the motivation and attraction of students at the undergraduate research level with research potential has been promising. In this sense, the actions to promote mobility between undergraduate and postgraduate degrees stand out, i.e., the opportunity to attend the postgraduate courses during the undergraduate studies. Besides contributing to the increase in demand, the agility of this transition enables qualified training in a shorter period of time.

The quality of the education and of the dissertations and theses produced must also be carefully pursued. In addition to the methodological precision, the increase of the intervention research and the search for innovative knowledge specific to the area of nursing, the development of studies in partnership with foreign institutions should strengthen the student body and contribute to the qualification of theses and dissertations. Therefore, the incentive to develop scholarships and / or the implementation of international agreements, the increase in the attraction of national and international resources, and the active participation of students in research groups, are some of the strategies that qualify the student body. This qualification will certainly reflect on an education of excellence and, consequently, in scientific production with the recommendation to publish in journals that have an influence in the field of nursing. However, the increase of student co-authorship is only achieved through continuous team work with the faculty members. Besides participating in all the stages of the education and qualification of the student body, the faculty members should be the greatest promoters of the dissemination of the knowledge produced. Motivating a student body of excellence enables it to be highly qualified to provide feedback for the postgraduate program and for the production of the scientific, technological and innovative knowledge that is expected of both.