

# An Empirical Study on the Training of Nursing Major English Talents in Vocational Universities in Hainan

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**Abstract.** In the context of the construction of Hainan Free Trade Port, the development of medical and health tourism has policy advantages and development opportunities, and the development prospect is promising. Hainan's medical and health industry is increasingly in line with international standards, and the demand for nursing talents is increasing year by year. However, the human resources for medical and health tourism are insufficient. The demand for nursing talents with English application ability and familiar with international languages is also increasing rapidly. Based on the empirical analysis and research on the statistical survey data of nursing enrollment, English curriculum, and the status quo of teacher training in a vocational college in Hainan Province in recent four years, this paper evaluates and analyzes the status quo of nursing talent training in Hainan's vocational universities, and puts forward suggestions on how to improve and cultivate medical and health nursing personnel who meet the needs of the construction of a free trade port, At the same time, it puts forward a more targeted reform direction of specialized English teaching for vocational colleges in Hainan Province.

**Keywords:** Medical and health tourism; Nursing English talents; Empirical investigation and analysis, Suggestions.

## 1. Introduction

The 14th Five Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of Hainan Province and the Outline of the Vision Goals for the Year 2035 put forward "high-quality development of the medical and health industry". The Hainan Provincial Tourism Construction and Development Plan (2016-2020) and the Hainan Health Industry Development Plan (2019-2025) both require to actively promote the deep integration of tourism and culture, health care and medical care, elderly care and health care and other industries. The construction of Hainan Free Trade Port has brought new historical opportunities and impetus for the development of international medical care and health tourism. The outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 has seriously affected people's life and production. The epidemic situation is both a challenge and an opportunity for Hainan to develop international medical tourism services. Whether the nursing students of Hainan vocational universities can be competent for the medical and health care posts required by the construction of the free trade port after graduation, whether their nursing English level can meet the needs of international medical and health tourism, and whether the nursing English curriculum meets the requirements of the talent training program for health medical tourism will all be the contents of this statistical investigation and empirical analysis.

## 2. Statistical investigation and data analysis

### 2.1 Statistical survey data

The survey and research statistics include three parts.

The first part is a statistical survey of students recruited in the past four years, including the year of enrollment, class, and college entrance examination English scores. The second part is a survey of the nursing English curriculum in Hainan vocational universities (both junior college students and undergraduate students are included), and a review of the nursing curriculum plan, English textbooks and English syllabus in the past four years. The third part is a systematic survey of the

basic situation of nursing teachers in vocational universities, including the title structure, education background, specialty and nationality, and an analysis of the proportion of teachers.

Before the formal investigation, 8 basic English teachers and 2 nursing English teachers from Hainan vocational universities were invited to interview and evaluate, mainly to analyze and put forward opinions on the current situation of students' English learning, curriculum and teacher composition.

## 2.2 Collection of statistical data and empirical analysis

Table 1. Enrollment of nursing students

Students	Year	Number of classes	Total number of students	Number of students with scores over 60	Percentage
Junior college students	2019	17	1071	332	31.0%
	2020	17	1003	385	38.4%
	2021	8	456	117	25.7%
	2022	11	693	201	29.0%
Undergraduate students	2019	9	495	366	73.9%
	2020	6	354	278	78.5%
	2021	4	192	154	80.2%
	2022	7	352	263	74.7%

As shown in Table 1, the English level of nursing freshmen enrolled in vocational universities in Hainan is uneven. When enrolling nursing freshmen, vocational universities are still based on whether the total score reaches the score line, and do not make additional requirements for English single subject scores. From Table 1, we can see that 60% - 70% of the nursing students whose English scores are lower than 60 in the past four years have been admitted to nursing vocational universities. In the past four years, due to the large demand for talents, good employment prospects and high employment quality, the nursing major in Hainan has accounted for a relatively high proportion in the normal enrollment of all majors in Hainan's vocational universities. In 2019 and 2020, even 17 nursing major classes have been set up at the same time, which poses a great challenge to the teaching status and teachers of Hainan's vocational universities.

This enrollment situation has further widened the gap in English proficiency among nursing students and put nursing English teachers in a dilemma in the actual teaching process. English teachers can only adopt "egalitarianism", organize and implement teaching activities according to the textbooks used, according to the established teaching plan, with the goal that most students can pass the Ministry of Education's college English application ability test. The result is that most nursing junior college students can reach the required CET 3 (A/B-Grade) level when they graduate, while undergraduate students can reach CET 4 level, but they fail to meet the English level requirements for foreign-related nursing positions. At the same time, the lack of specialized English course also makes students with good basic English level lose the opportunity to improve their comprehensive English ability through the study of specialized English at university and become competent for foreign nursing posts in the future.

Table 2. Curriculum of Nursing English

Grade	Students	English Course	Class Hours	Semester	
2020	Undergraduate students	Basic English	48	1	
			64	2	
			48	3	
	Junior college students	specialized English	48	4	
			Basic English	48	1
				64	2
48	3				

As shown in Table 2, Hainan's vocational universities lack investment in nursing English courses in terms of talent training program formulation and teaching implementation. In the process of talent cultivation, college nursing major should pay more attention to the improvement of students' comprehensive quality and application ability, and increase the teaching of nursing English, so as to effectively improve the English level and skills of foreign nurses. Unfortunately, it can be seen from Table 2 that, the nursing major in vocational universities only aims to complete the teaching requirements of the Ministry of Education's college English application ability examination. The survey shows that the undergraduate nursing major in vocational universities only offers 48 hours of specialized English courses for one semester on the basis of the unified basic English courses for all other majors. For Junior college students, there is no specialized English course, ignoring the mastery of the practical application ability of nursing English, which makes it difficult to meet the standards for the English level of nursing talents under the construction of Hainan Free Trade Port. As a result, most nursing students cannot communicate with patients fluently after graduation, far from meeting the requirements of foreign-related nursing professional posts.

Table 3. Proportion of nursing major English teachers

Students	Grade	Professional title structure				Education			Nationality		Specialization	
		Professor	Associate professor	Lecturer	Assistant	Doctor	Master	Below master	Foreign teachers	Chinese teachers	Nursing	English
Junior college students	2019	0%	5%	60%	35%	0%	90%	10%	0%	100%	10%	90%
	2020	0%	10%	50%	40%	0%	90%	10%	0%	100%	10%	90%
	2021	0%	5%	55%	40%	0%	95%	5%	0%	100%	0%	100%
	2022	0%	10%	60%	30%	0%	95%	5%	0%	100%	0%	100%
Undergraduate students	2019	5%	25%	70%	0%	5%	95%	0%	0%	100%	5%	95%
	2020	10%	20%	70%	0%	10%	90%	0%	0%	100%	5%	95%
	2021	5%	25%	70%	0%	5%	95%	0%	10%	90%	0%	100%
	2022	10%	20%	70%	0%	10%	90%	0%	10%	90%	0%	100%

As shown in Table 3, the distribution of teaching teachers in Hainan Vocational Universities is obviously uneven, the proportion of senior professional titles and foreign teachers is too low, and there are few nursing major teachers. The characteristics of specialized English require teachers not

only to have a strong level of English language teaching, but also to have a sufficient degree of knowledge and understanding of relevant professional knowledge. Hainan Vocational Universities have developed rapidly in recent years, and its enrollment has been expanding. In order to adapt to the current situation of enrollment, it is difficult to ensure the teaching quality by introducing a large number of young teachers and increasing teachers' work tasks. At the same time, nursing English courses in vocational universities are generally undertaken by teachers of public English courses. Due to their lack of knowledge and practice in nursing and medicine, students cannot realize the organic combination of nursing work and English application after graduation.

Through the above statistical data analysis of the status quo of nursing in vocational universities, it is not difficult to see that nursing graduates are extremely rare English talents who can be competent for medical nursing tourism. The fact that nursing students generally lack English ability is an urgent problem that we should face and emphasize.

### **3. Suggestions**

In the early 1980s, American linguist S.D. Krashen put forward the famous "language input hypothesis" theory, that is, human beings can acquire language only when they have comprehensible language input. English teaching at different levels in vocational universities is the specific practice of this theory. That is, students are divided into roughly equal levels, targeted classroom teaching, gradually reducing the gap, and jointly improving English scores are effective ways to improve students' comprehensive English level.

#### **3.1 Selection of students in English characteristic classes**

In enrolling new students, the following factors can be comprehensively considered when selecting students to enter the English characteristic class: (1) The total score of the college entrance examination: the total score of the college entrance examination is an important reference index for students' theoretical learning ability; (2) College entrance examination English results: to select students with English skills, college entrance examination English results are simple and effective and the most important reference indicators; (3) Graduation school: The teaching quality and teaching method of the graduation school are important external factors for students' growth, and also one of the reference indicators for us to judge students' quality; (4) After entering to vocational universities, the students' comprehensive English application ability will be examined through a thorough examination focusing more on the practical English application ability; (5) Students' growth environment: students who have more opportunities to use English and have more contact with it during their growth will have a better foundation and motivation to learn English, and will be more willing to participate in foreign-related nursing positions in the future.

#### **3.2 Teacher allocation for special English classes**

In view of the characteristic class of nursing English in vocational colleges established by selecting excellent English students, we should give full consideration to the matching of excellent teachers to achieve the best English teaching effect. It mainly includes three types of teachers: (1) Public English teachers: mainly engaged in public English teaching. Teachers with rich teaching experience and strong English application ability should be selected. At the same time, inviting foreign English teachers to teach can better improve the oral English communication ability. (2) Allocation of professional teachers: select nursing teachers with overseas experience and foreign nursing experience to infiltrate English teaching in professional courses to improve students' nursing specialized English ability. (3) Allocation of class supervisors and counselors: The class supervisors and counselors should have good English communication skills. They usually communicate with students more in English, which is of great help to the improvement of students' English ability.

### 3.3 Carry out deep level teaching reform

The teaching reform can be carried out in the following three aspects for the special English class: (1) Reasonably improve the talent cultivating goal. The talents in the nursing major should improve the teaching goal and aim at the level of CET-6. (2) Flexible adjustment of teaching plan. In the existing teaching plan, vocational universities should increase the amount of English information and oral teaching to match the students' foundation. They should also invite foreign teachers to be teachers of oral English, give full play to the advantages of foreign teachers' English communication, drive students to output more and improve their English communication ability. (3) Increase extracurricular teaching activities. At present, the teaching method of nursing English in Hainan Vocational Universities is mainly classroom teaching, with few opportunities for application and exercise after class. Through the teaching reform, encouraging students to go out of the classroom more and improve their English application ability. In order to meet the rapid development of medical and health tourism under the construction of Hainan Free Trade Port, and to export more and better foreign-related nursing talents to society.

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