

From Student to Professional:

Fostering Professional Identity via Descriptive Case Study Analysing Benefits of Embedding Career Development Learning in Higher Education/Vocational Education

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THE NEW WAY TO DO UNI



Introduction

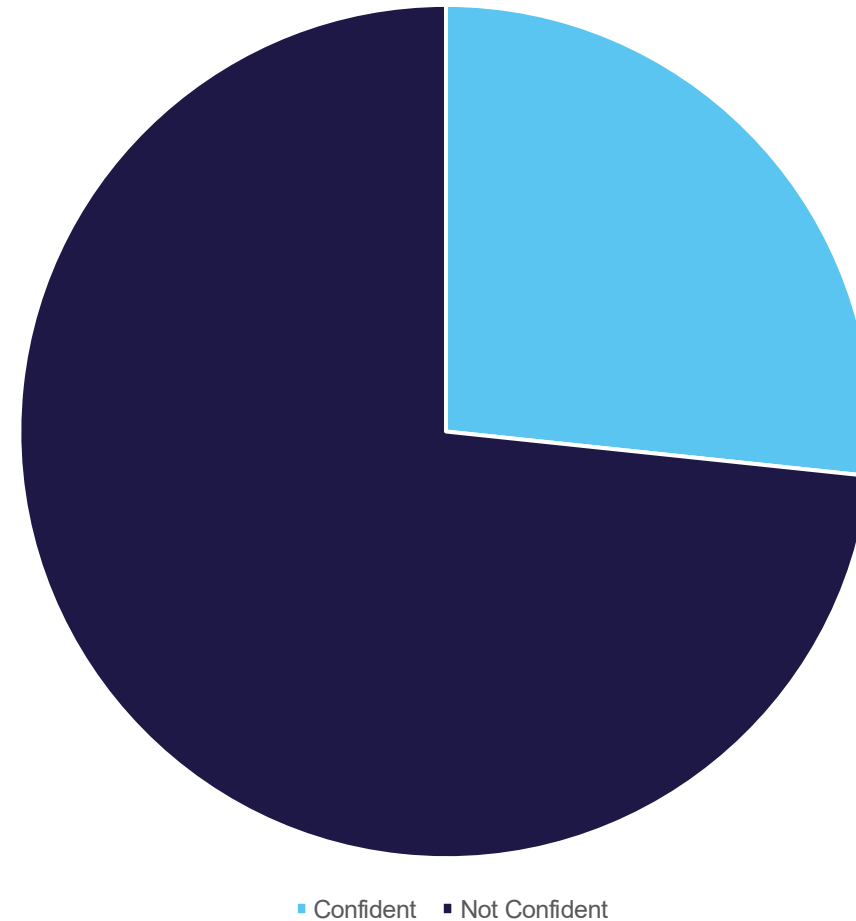
On entering the profession, graduates experience myriad experiences, the most common being:

- A weak professional identity
- Fear of the unknown
- Uncertainty about the future
- Anxiety about finding a job
- Self-doubt and lack of confidence in themselves and their skills.

Lacking confidence

- ◆ Sample Size: 30 Students
- ◆ Confident: 27%
- ◆ Not Confident: 73%
- ◆ Lack of Confidence:
 - Work-related skills
 - Personal confidence.

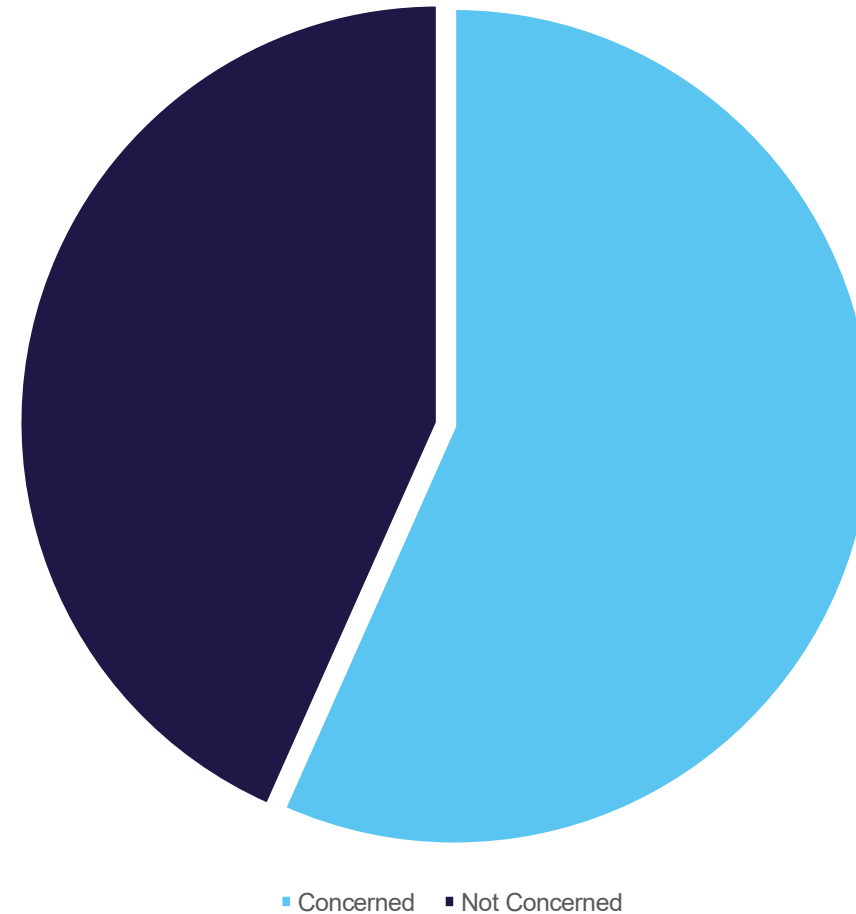
Confident versus Not Confident



Concerned about competition

- ◆ Sample Size: 30 Students
- ◆ Concerned: 57%
- ◆ Not Concerned: 43%

Concerned about the competition



Examples of students' disclosure

“Scared of not getting a job after finishing”

“Competing with other Enrolled Nurses”

“I have low self-confidence, and it can impact the way I view myself”

“Lack of confidence to work alone and being scared to make mistakes”

“Leaving my family for a long period to work”

“I might not want to become a maternal-child health nurse, I might find a different nursing role”.

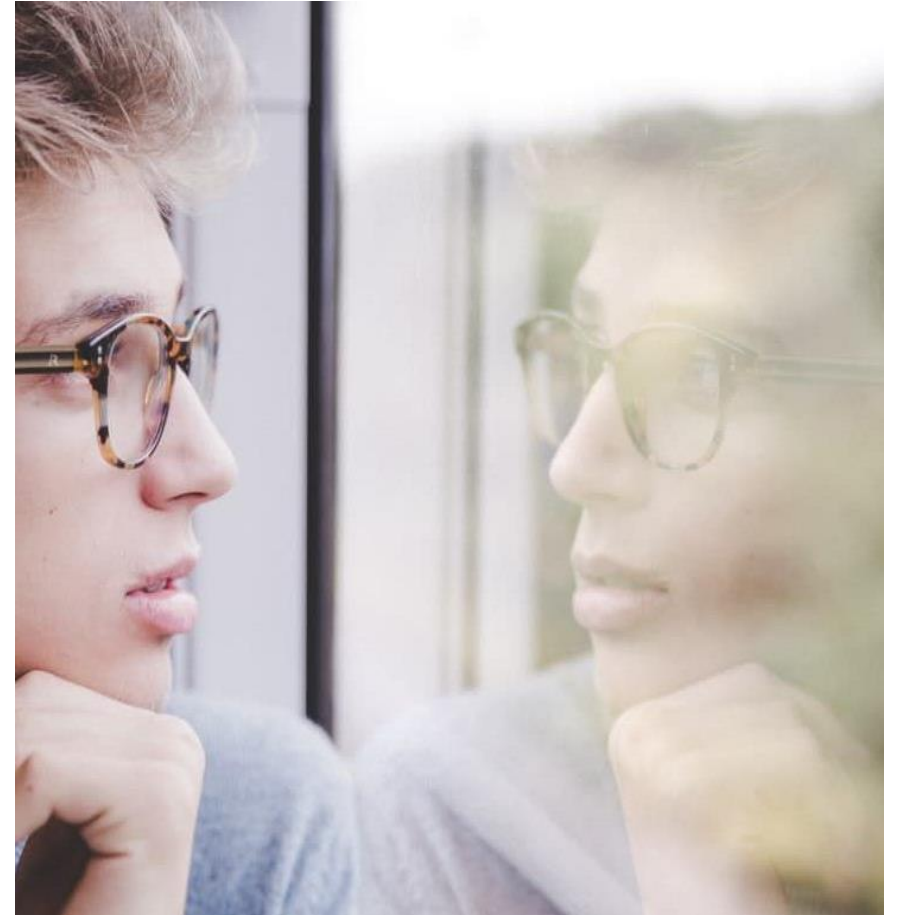
Focus on personal development

- Clarity of Focus
- Confidence
- Competition

Developing Clarity

Involves

- Developing a professional identity
- Self-reflection
- Introspection and self-understanding
- Personal aspirations
- Personal and professional goals
- Mind-mapping.



Fostering Confidence

Involves

- Being in a safe environment
- Receiving feedback and the ability to deal with feedback
- Exploring personal strengths
- Assessing one's own work-related skills
- Acknowledging one's own skills deficit and ability to take action.



Dealing with Competition

Involves

- Embracing a professional identity
- Being confident to face the world
- Networking
- Doing extracurricular activities
- Taking extra courses
- Researching jobs and the skills required
- Developing work application and interviewing skills.



A Poem

*There is freedom waiting for you,
On the breezes of the sky,
And you ask, “What if I fall?”
Oh, but my darling.
What if you fly?*

Erin Hanson

