

# Contemporary Teaching Practices for Enhancing Nursing Student Engagement: Educator's Perspectives

Viji V S

Bethlahem College of Nursing, Ulaganvillai, Tamil Nadu, India

**Abstract:** *In this modern era, the face of nursing education is transforming into a multifaceted concerning to digitalization and the changing expectations of young learners. Today's nursing students are deeply aware about the evolving trends in the health care sectors and are very curious too. However, getting focused with their profession is still challenging and teachers requires certain etiquettes to make the nursing students engage with their focus. This commentary discusses essential modern etiquette that educators must adopt to meaningfully engage nursing students. It highlights respectful communication, use of technology, mentorship practices, inclusiveness, and learner-centered teaching strategies as crucial components of effective contemporary nursing education.*

**Keywords:** Contemporary teaching practices, nursing education, student engagement, educator's perspectives, educator's etiquette, learner centred teaching

## 1. Introduction

The role of a nurse educator today is more dynamic than ever. Nursing students represent a generation shaped by instant information, digital learning, social media influence, and evolving healthcare standards. Traditional teaching approaches such as strict discipline, one-way lectures, and passive learning are no longer effective in empowering or retaining student engagement. As a result, educators must cultivate modern etiquette, a combination of professional behaviors, communication strategies, and pedagogical adjustments that align with the mindset of today's nursing students. This commentary explores how thoughtful etiquette can improve student engagement, motivation, and academic performance.

### Creating a Respectful and Supportive Learning Climate

Respect is the foundation of all educational relationships. Modern etiquette requires teachers to address students courteously, acknowledge their queries, and create an environment where they feel comfortable expressing doubts. Nursing students, often burdened by clinical stress and heavy academic workloads, thrive in classrooms where psychological safety is nurtured. A respectful approach builds confidence and encourages active participation.

### Embracing Technology as a Teaching Partner

Today's nursing students are digital natives. Modern etiquette involves integrating technology, not discouraging it. Using interactive tools such as simulation videos, virtual case studies, online quizzes, and clinical scenario apps enhances understanding and engagement. Technology-mediated learning also helps bridge the gap between theory and clinical practice. Educators must guide students in developing digital professionalism while ensuring ethical use of online resources.

### Communicating Clearly and Compassionately

Effective communication is a core nursing competency and equally essential for educators. Modern etiquette includes:

- Using clear, simplified explanations

- Encouraging open dialogue
- Offering constructive feedback rather than criticism
- Listening to students' struggles without judgment

When feedback is respectful, timely, and empathetic, nursing students become more receptive to learning and improvement.

### Encouraging Active and Hands-on Learning

Nursing is a practical profession, and students learn best by doing. Teachers who adopt modern etiquette avoid lengthy monologues and instead encourage:

- Skill-based demonstrations
- Peer-assisted learning
- Clinical simulations
- Small group discussions
- Reflective activities

Such strategies increase engagement by making students active participants rather than passive listeners.

### Recognizing Individuality and Diversity

Nursing cohorts often include students from varied cultural, linguistic, and educational backgrounds. Modern etiquette requires teachers to acknowledge these differences, avoid bias, and provide equal opportunities for participation. Valuing individual strengths boosts self-worth and motivates students to stay engaged and committed.

### Balancing Authority with Approachability

Nursing students appreciate teachers who uphold discipline but remain approachable. Modern etiquette does not dismiss authority; rather, it blends it with warmth and accessibility. A teacher who is firm yet empathetic is more likely to gain students' respect and attention. Approachability allows students to clarify doubts early, reducing academic gaps and anxiety.

### Promoting Professionalism Through Role Modelling

Students mirror what they observe. Therefore, teachers must model the etiquette expected from future nurses: punctuality, politeness, ethical behavior, accountability, and dedication.

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When educators demonstrate professionalism through their actions, nursing students are naturally inspired to adopt the same values.

### **Supporting Mental Well-being and Reducing Academic Stress**

Nursing education can be emotionally and academically demanding. Modern etiquette involves acknowledging mental health challenges, reducing stigma around seeking help, and creating open avenues for communication. Teachers who provide reassurance, flexibility when appropriate, and encouragement help students remain engaged and resilient.

## **2. Conclusion**

Modern etiquette in nursing education reflects a shift from authoritarian teaching styles toward empathetic, inclusive, and technology-driven approaches. By practicing respectful communication, embracing digital tools, fostering active learning, and modelling professionalism, educators can significantly enhance student engagement. As nursing roles become more complex and patient-centered, it is essential for teachers to adopt etiquette that nurtures competent, confident, and compassionate professionals. Engaging nursing students meaningfully is not just a pedagogical responsibility—it is an investment in the future of healthcare.

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