



**Benchworks**  
by Elentra



## **NURSING CASE STUDY**

### **NIAGARA UNIVERSITY**



Niagara University is one of three winners of the 2024 Benchworks Assessment and Impact Award in nursing for significant improvement to satisfaction with course lectures and interactions. The program's commitment to enhancing the educational experience is evident through its innovative use of digital tools, personalized faculty support, and real-world relevance in training. These focused efforts have resulted in a transformative impact on student engagement and learning outcomes, showcasing the program's dedication to addressing modern challenges in nursing education.

“

When the College of Nursing began integrating Benchworks data, we were able to elevate our ability to adapt and respond to the academic needs of the program. By doing so, we empowered the faculty and students to drive better program outcomes.

**ALYCIA CRAMER, MS, NEd, RN** | *Director of Undergraduate Nursing Education*

# HOW THEY USED DATA

---

## DATA-DRIVEN INITIATIVES



### Digital Experiences

Niagara University's nursing program leverages innovative digital experiences such as simulations, virtual reality, and interactive tools to enhance learning. Benchworks data revealed a disconnect between traditional teaching methods and students' practical understanding of complex scenarios. In response, the program integrated modern educational methods, including specialized games and simulations, that adapt to diverse learning styles. By incorporating Benchworks feedback, which highlighted the need for more engaging and realistic scenarios, the program successfully exposed students to a range of situations they might not encounter in traditional clinical rotations, improving overall satisfaction with course interactions.



### Empowering Students and Faculty

The program's approach to empowering faculty through professional development and personalized support has been guided by insights from Benchworks data. Analysis of student feedback revealed a strong preference for flexible and accessible faculty support, leading to the implementation of one-on-one sessions and extended availability. Faculty members also use Benchworks data to tailor remediation plans and provide compassionate support, ensuring rigorous standards are maintained while addressing individual student needs. This data-driven approach has fostered an environment where both faculty and students can excel, significantly enhancing the quality of interactions and support.



### Enhancing Real-World Experiences

To address the need for more realistic and impactful training, the program introduced simulated patients, a change informed by Benchworks data highlighting gaps in students' preparedness for real-world scenarios. This method has been particularly valuable in mental health nursing and has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students. By using Benchworks data to identify specific areas for improvement, the program successfully enhanced the quality and relevance of education, providing a more realistic training experience that aligns with modern healthcare challenges.