

## Nursing Students' Intention to Work in Hospice Care in the Future: A Cross-sectional Study

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**Abstract :** Background: Studies indicate that nursing students often rank hospice nursing among their least preferred career paths. Understanding factors influencing their intent to work in hospice care is essential for improving interest in this field. Aim: This study aimed to explore the relationship between nursing students' intention to pursue a career in hospice care and various factors, including their attitudes towards caring for dying patients, death anxiety, personal or professional experience with dying patients, and the type of nursing program they are enrolled in. Methods: In this cross-sectional study, 200 nursing students completed an online survey using the Frommelt Attitude Toward Care of the Dying Scale and the Turkish Death Anxiety Scale. The survey assessed students' intentions to work in hospice care and related variables. Results: Only 11% of participants expressed an interest in working in hospice care. Students in the accelerated program for non-nursing Bachelor of Arts graduates showed a higher intention to work in hospice care compared to those in the generic program ( $\beta = 0.27, P < .001$ ). Conversely, completion of clinical experience in a medical ward was associated with a lower intention to work in hospice care ( $\beta = -0.21, P < .01$ ). Conclusions: The findings suggest that nursing students in accelerated programs for non-nursing graduates are more likely to intend to work in hospice care. Enhanced experience and support are recommended to sustain their interest. Clinical experience in medical wards does not effectively substitute for hospice-specific clinical experience.

**Keywords :** hospice nursing, nursing students, death anxiety, career intentions

**Conference Title :** ICN 2025 : International Conference on Nursing

**Conference Location :** Tokyo, Japan

**Conference Dates :** January 09-10, 2025