

# Achieving Transformational Curriculum Change

How Mount Carmel College of Nursing Implemented the Engage™ Series

When the faculty at Mount Carmel College of Nursing (Ohio) decided to restructure the prelicensure curriculum, they chose a concept-based approach that focuses on clinical judgment and uses competency-based approaches to evaluate students. Textbook replacement has been an important component of this process.

Mount Carmel's decision to transform its curriculum reflects the recognized need for competency-based education across nursing. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN, n.d.), has said that transitioning to competency-based education is important for many reasons. This approach allows schools to adapt to the dynamic nature of the healthcare environment and welcomes the incorporation of healthcare technology innovations used in practice settings. Moreover, the development of clinical judgment is critical for new nurses (Betts, 2024).

## Textbook replacement as an agent of transformational change

Transformational change involves significant shifts in thinking, structure, and processes (Miller, 2020). One of the most substantive shifts Mount Carmel undertook was replacing textbooks with the Engage™ Series from ATI.

"The nation is in desperate need of nurses. Now is the time for educators to meet students where they are — by ensuring that solid, reinforced learning occurs. The Engage Series can help faculty achieve that goal."

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Additionally, students struggled with distinguishing the "need-to-know" information from "nice-to-know" information in content-dense textbooks. The faculty also recognized that information necessary for nursing practice evolves more quickly than new textbook editions are released.

Considering the disadvantages of textbooks and the characteristics of today's learner (e.g., technology-driven, desires engagement and immediate feedback, etc., [Phillips et al., 2023]), the Engage Series seemed like a beneficial alternative.

## What is the Engage Series?

ATI developed the Engage Series to provide interactive, compelling content for today's diverse learners. This immersive learning solution focuses on the essential information necessary for nursing practice and is updated frequently to reflect current practice. Using multimedia, virtual simulations, activities and challenges, EHR documentation practice, podcasts, and more, each Engage solution provides an all-encompassing learning experience.

## Implementing the Engage Series

To support faculty and promote the best possible outcomes, Mount Carmel integrated the Engage Series in a thoughtful, organized manner, described in Figure 1.

Mount Carmel faculty were cautious not to compromise students' learning or success on exams and, ultimately, the NCLEX. They approached the implementation of the Engage Series as a quality improvement project. Before fully committing to adoption, the faculty reviewed outcomes from proctored assessments in ATI's Content Mastery Series (CMS), which are required after students complete each content area. They also considered the perspectives of their students. The faculty collected course data for fundamentals, community health, and adult medical-surgical before adopting the Engage Series and afterward. Figure 2 summarizes the impressive results.

**Figure 1:**

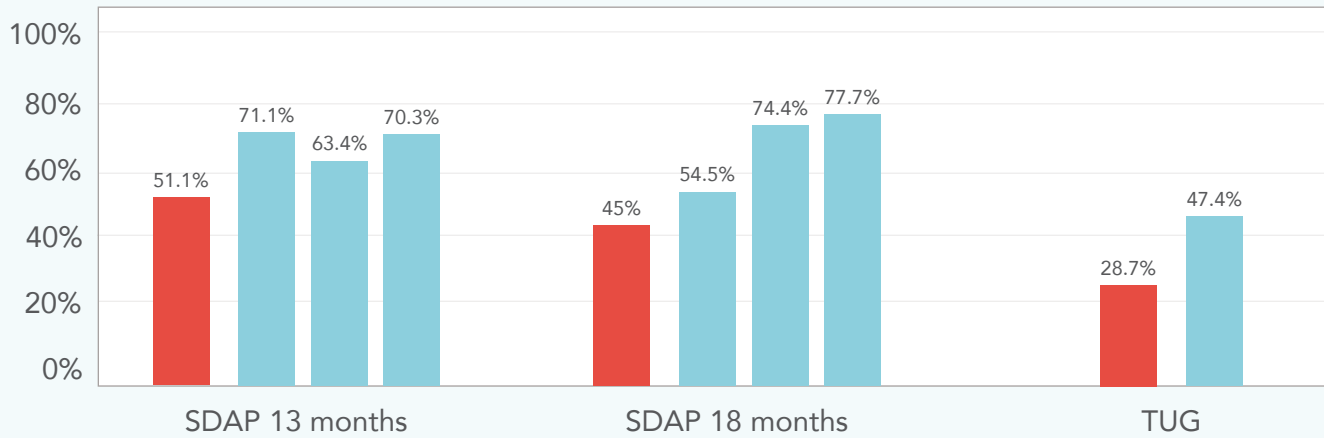
*Engage Fundamentals was the first Engage product that Mount Carmel fully implemented. The program has used the process shown below to implement Engage Fundamentals, Engage Community & Public Health and Engage Adult Medical-Surgical.*



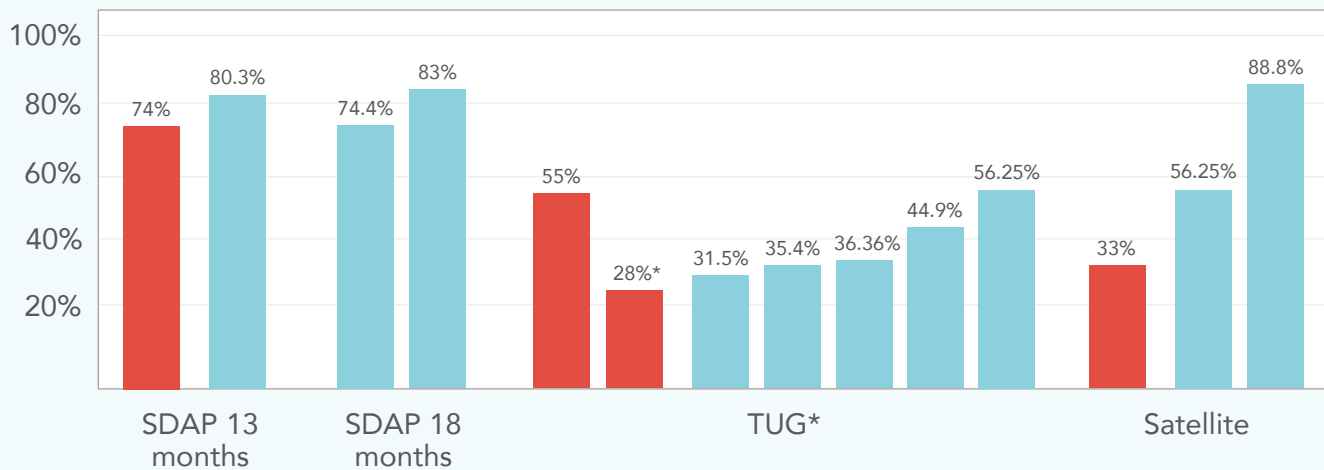
## Figure 2: Results of Mount Carmel's Engage™ Series Implementation

Percentage of Students Scoring a CMS Level 2 or Level 3

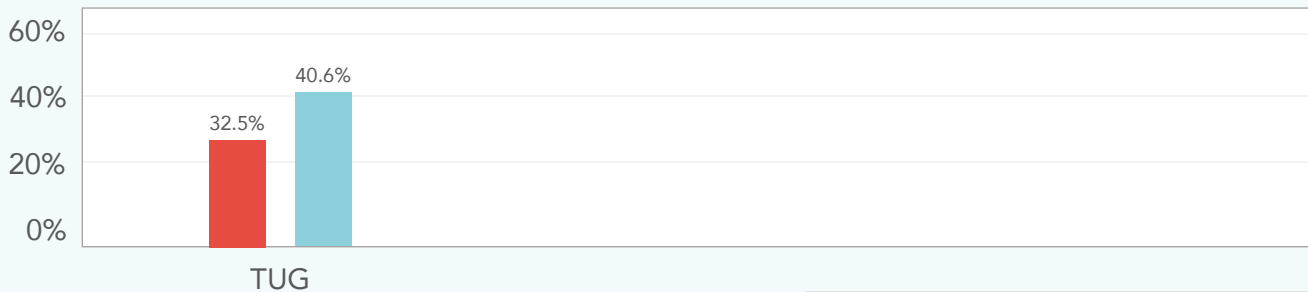
### Engage Fundamentals



### Engage Community & Public Health



### Engage Adult Medical-Surgical



Note:

SDAP 13 = Second Degree Accelerated Program, 13 months

SDAP 18 = Second Degree Accelerated Program, 18 months

TUG = Traditional Undergraduate Program

Satellite = Satellite Program

Pre-Engage Level 2 or 3 achievement

Post-Engage Level 2 or 3 achievement

Each bar represents a different cohort

\*Mount Carmel paused giving the Community & Public Health in 2018 and re-introduced in 2022 with TUG. 28% achieve L2/L3 before Engage implementation across all programs.

Mount Carmel implemented Engage™ Fundamentals in its Second-Degree Accelerated Programs (SDAPs), which are provided in 13-month and 18-month formats.

Recently, Mount Carmel implemented Engage Fundamentals in its Traditional Undergraduate Program (TUG). Mount Carmel also implemented Engage™ Community & Public Health with TUG and Satellite students. At the time, the TUG program experienced faculty turnover and a course redesign that may have impacted the results. Program faculty are now updating their best practices for Engage Community & Public Health. Next, Mount Carmel implemented Engage™ Adult Medical-Surgical with TUG students. And during the 2024-2025 academic year, Mount Carmel is integrating Engage™ Mental Health, Engage™ Maternal, Newborn & Women's Health, and Engage™ Pediatrics.

## Students have benefited from the Engage Series in multiple ways

The integration of the Engage Series has benefited Mount Carmel students in many ways. In surveys, students report positive perceptions that include:

- preference for Engage over textbook readings
- identifying Engage as useful in helping to meet course objectives
- comfort in navigating the product
- and more.

Given that the flow of information today is constant, it's no wonder students struggle to focus and retain textbook information. With the Engage Series, students learn the information that is essential for nursing practice and — most importantly — they retain it through built-in reinforcement activities.

## References

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# Learn more about our Engage Series

[atitesting.com/educator/solutions/ati-engage-series](https://atitesting.com/educator/solutions/ati-engage-series)

