

Preliminary environmental scan

At some point a thorough evaluation of existing school programs may need to be completed, but it is important at this stage not to bog down in data collection and analysis. Even an imperfect listing any existing academic progression pathways (including articulation agreements) will be helpful in guiding next steps. Evaluation of existing programs may help identify participants for the upcoming stakeholders meeting.

Assess the current status of academic progression in the community of interest. This may be brief and straightforward if relatively few academic institutions are being considered for the project. If the project will involve many institutions, it may require survey to assess current practices.

Topics of interest:

Do the community / technical colleges (or diploma programs, if applicable) have existing partnerships with BSN programs?

If yes, what form do these partnerships take?

- Informal arrangements
- Articulation agreements which address nursing courses only
- Articulation agreements which address pre-requisites and nursing courses
- Articulation agreements which address pre-requisites, nursing courses and all graduation requirements needed for completion of the BSN
- Options for co-enrollment in which AD students can complete some BSN coursework during their AD studies

If existing agreements are in place, do the academic institutions track the proportion of AD students or graduates who matriculate directly into a baccalaureate program? Does tracking include metrics to allow evaluation of diversity?

A sample survey tool is provided here courtesy of the Campaign for Action and the Pennsylvania Action Coalition. Note, this sample is a fairly extensive survey. The leadership team should consider the extent to which data gathered at this early stage is worth the resources required for a given project.

Sample tool: [Pennsylvania academic progression survey.pdf](#)