



CASE STUDY

Andy & Barbara Gessner College of Nursing University of Houston

Using Benchworks to Strengthen Accreditation, Highlight Outcomes, and Drive Meaningful Change

Background

The [University of Houston Andy & Barbara Gessner College of Nursing](#) prepares students to become nurse leaders and clinical experts, with a strong emphasis on diversity, equity, and community impact. Based in one of the most diverse U.S. counties, the Gessner College of Nursing serves students who reflect the communities they care for, with over 80% speaking more than one language. Its CCNE-accredited BSN, MSN, and DNP programs emphasize leadership, interprofessional collaboration, and health equity through classroom learning, household-centered care, and a nurse-managed clinic.



2010

Benchmarks
adopted



200+

Students enrolled



25

Faculty and staff

Challenge

To prepare for accreditation and strengthen their approach to assessment, the Gessner College of Nursing needed an efficient, consistent way to gather and use data— particularly for demonstrating improvement, engaging stakeholders, and supporting reporting with confidence. Key challenges included:

- **Aligning assessment data** – Mapping to AACN's *Essentials* and satisfying CCNE requirements
- **Collecting feedback** – Gathering input from students, alumni, and employers
- **Tracking multi-year results** – Showing year-over-year results without manual mapping
- **Turning feedback into action** – Identifying meaningful insights within large volumes of survey data

Goals

The Gessner College of Nursing sought a solution that would reduce the manual burden of assessment while supporting accreditation, surfacing insights, and engaging stakeholders. These goals reflected a shift from building tools internally to adopting a purpose-built platform—one designed to improve efficiency, align with nursing priorities, and turn data into action.

What the Gessner College of Nursing Needed in a Solution



Streamline Survey Administration

Free up faculty time by using a tool with ready-to-go surveys—no need to write questions, manage logistics, or build reporting from scratch



Ask the Right Questions

Use research-based, nationally validated surveys that measure key areas in nursing education, including satisfaction, support, and learning



Satisfy Accreditation Requirements

Collect student feedback that supports CCNE Standard IV, with survey content mapped to AACN's *Essentials* to reflect core competencies



Simplify Longitudinal Tracking

Track multi-year trends to document progress, guide decision-making, and satisfy accreditation requirements



Share Insights with Ease

Make it easy to find and communicate relevant data with faculty, partners, and stakeholders—helping everyone stay informed and aligned

Solution

Since 2010, the Gessner College of Nursing has used Benchworks exit and alumni surveys for both their BSN and MSN programs to gather feedback from graduates and alumni, inform program changes, and meet accreditation requirements. With ready-to-use surveys mapped to AACN's *Essentials*, Benchworks made it easy to gather feedback needed to satisfy Standard IV of CCNE's accreditation standards—without building tools from scratch. Instead of spending months writing surveys or doing data analysis from scratch, the College could focus directly on what matters: finding insights and taking action.

What the Gessner College of Nursing Gained with Benchworks

Validated Surveys

Surveys are nationally validated, built by experts, and reflect key nursing education outcomes



Simplified Administration

Saved time with ready-to-use surveys, built-in reporting, and a step-by-step checklist to guide setup



Standards Alignment

Used results mapped to AACN's *Essentials* to meet CCNE Standard IV accreditation requirements



Longitudinal Tracking

Multi-year reporting highlighted trends and showed the impact of changes over time—with no extra setup



Actionable Insights

Surfaced trends, strengths, and recommendations for improvement across the program



Benchmarked Results

Compared results to other nursing programs to provide context and inform program improvements



Results That Matter

Benchworks helped the Gessner College of Nursing streamline assessment, strengthen outcomes, and prepare for accreditation—with data they could use and trust.

- **Accreditation Readiness:** Benchworks provided data aligned to AACN's Essentials and met requirements for Standard IV of CCNE's accreditation standards.
- **Faculty Engagement:** Benchmarking reports and trend data helped faculty evaluate and act on student feedback efficiently.
- **Stronger Student Support:** Adjustments to advising, mentoring, and program communication were driven directly by survey insights.
- **Better Stakeholder Alignment:** Advisory board members and clinical partners received consistent, credible data to inform collaboration and expectations.

In Their Own Words



“Benchworks gives us the evidence we need to meet CCNE Standard IV and show how student feedback drives change. It saves us time, simplifies the process, and lets us focus on sharing our story and preparing the next generation of nurses.”

Kathryn Tart, EdD, MSN, RN

Founding Dean and Professor
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Nursing
Andy & Barbara Gessner College of Nursing
University of Houston

Surveys Give You Data. Benchworks Gives You Answers.

Benchworks offers nursing programs the tools they need to turn student feedback into clear, actionable insights. Benchworks helps programs efficiently demonstrate outcomes, identify opportunities for improvement, and support continuous improvement efforts.

With Benchworks, nursing programs can:



Collect Better Data

Research-based, validated surveys deliver the data you need



Know What Matters

Identify the top issues for your program without the guesswork



Gain Comparative Perspective

Compare with peer institutions for a broader context



Prove Your Value

Track longitudinal trends to show improvement over time

Benchworks isn't just for nursing—more than 50 Benchworks surveys support student affairs, academic affairs, and professional programs across higher education, providing trusted, comparative data to guide improvement at every level.

For nursing programs preparing for accreditation or strengthening assessment strategies, Benchworks delivers the clarity, efficiency, and evidence needed to showcase success and drive meaningful change.



Ready to turn survey data into impact?

[Contact our team](#) to learn how Benchworks can help.