

Abstract**Original Article****Nursing Students' Attitudes Toward Research-Development: Does Taking Research Course Make a Difference?****Ozum Erkin, PhD, RN**

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Correspondence: Ozum Erkin, PhD, Ege University Faculty of Nursing, Public Health Nursing Department, Izmir, Turkey, E-mail: ozum.erkin@gmail.com**Abstract****Objectives:** To compare awareness of and attitudes to research and participation in research activities between nursing students taking a nursing research course and those not taking the course.**Methods:** A quantitative descriptive-comparative study was conducted in a nursing department of a university in Aegean Region in Turkey between 16 November and 11 December 2015. Totally 860 students were enrolled the study. Of the 380 students took a research course, and 480 did not take course agreed to participate. No sample selection was performed. The participation rate was 60% (n:522).**Results:** The mean age of the students was 20.72±0.95 years, 86.3% of the students were female (n=451). More than half (63.4%) of the students taking a research course and 34.5% of the nurses not taking it reported that they participated in a scientific meetings. A significantly higher rate of the students taking the course participated in scientific meetings ($\chi^2=43.12$, $p=.000$), involvement in a research activity ($\chi^2= 6.55$, $p=.001$), participated in research as a subject ($\chi^2=5.90$, $p=.019$) and collected data on behalf of a researcher ($\chi^2=5.99$, $p=.016$). The students taking the course got the total mean score 121.49±7.30 for the scale and the mean item score 4.19±0.53. Those not taking the course got the mean total score 120.25±6.6 for the scale and the mean item score 4.14±0.54. The former group of the students received higher scores for awareness of and attitudes to research without a significant difference ($U=3.219$; $p:0.33$).**Conclusions:** Both groups of the students are similar in terms of their awareness of and attitudes to research and advances in nursing. However, a higher rate of the students taking a research course actively contributed to research by joining scientific meetings and research activities and collecting data for another researcher's study.**Keywords:** Awareness, attitude, research, research course, nursing students.