

## Nursing Programs Philosophy

We the faculty believe:

Each person is a unique, holistic being who interacts, adapts, and grows within a complex, changing environment and is an integral part of a culturally diverse society. Each person has a fundamental right to dignity, equality, and self-determination. Each person has a vested interest in the quality of life and a right and responsibility to participate in decisions affecting life.

Nursing is a vital humanitarian profession. Nursing seeks to promote optimal health and self-care through health promotion and maintenance. Professional nurses assist individuals, families, and communities to meet physiological, psychological, sociocultural, and spiritual needs throughout the lifespan. Evidence-based knowledge from the humanities, sciences, nursing theories, and research as well as the influences of social forces is uniquely synthesized to form the basis for professional nursing. Practical nurses are care providers to individuals, families, and communities throughout the life-span and assist the registered nurse to manage client care in a variety of health care settings. Critical thinking, nursing process, safety, human caring relationships, effective communication, teaching, leadership, and management skills are essential for competent, caring, and accountable nursing practice.

Learning is a lifelong, dynamic process that is facilitated by the collaborative interaction between learner and teacher, each bringing life experiences, knowledge, and interests to the process. Learning requires responsibility, critical thinking, and self-motivation. An effective learning environment promotes an increasingly independent acquisition and demonstration of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors.

Professional nursing education facilitates the synthesis of evidence-based knowledge from the humanities, sciences, nursing theories, and research. Practical nursing education is a planned program of study, which correlates theoretical and technological instruction with sequential clinical experiences enabling the beginning practitioner to provide cost effective, therapeutic nursing care under the supervision of a registered nurse and/or physician. Nursing education is responsive to changing societal and student needs. Various practice settings provide opportunities for the student to develop and apply the knowledge vital for quality nursing care. Nursing education provides opportunities for multidisciplinary collaboration, which are essential for optimal nursing practice. Academic and extra-curricular activities enhance the student's personal and professional development. Nursing education is provided without regard to race; age (except where age is a bona fide clinical requirement); color; gender or sexual orientation; cultural, ethnic or national origin; religion; marital status; military or veteran status; disability; physical or mental condition(s), as long as the condition(s) do not limit the applicant/student's ability to perform the Essential Program Requirements with or without reasonable accommodations as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title III Public Accommodations, ADA Amendments Act of 2008, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504; or any other factor prohibited by law in its educational programs or activities.

The faculty, with student involvement, develops, organizes, implements, and evaluates the total program. The faculty manages resources responsibly to meet the student needs for a cost-effective program. Faculty members serve as educators, facilitators, advisors, and role models, establishing a

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climate of mutual trust and respect that encourages students to achieve their potential. Faculty members pursue personal and professional growth through independent study, continuing education, scholarly activities, and involvement in contemporary health issues. The faculty is prepared to meet the educational needs of a diverse student population. The faculty prepares students to identify and meet the health needs of the community and to participate as responsible members of society.

Graduates of both the professional and practical nursing program are eligible to apply for licensure. Each graduate is prepared through role transition experiences, integrated throughout the curriculum, to assume the role and responsibilities of a beginning practitioner in a dynamic health care environment. The nursing graduate has the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors to provide safe and competent nursing care in a variety of health care settings. The baccalaureate prepared (RN-to-BSN) graduate utilizes knowledge obtained from nursing, the sciences, and liberal education for the provision of healthcare delivery. The baccalaureate prepared graduate incorporates a global view of healthcare, best practices and research into nursing care of individuals, families and communities across the lifespan. All nursing programs of study provide a basis for further education and career mobility.