

We believe that:

Nursing is a caring, theory-based discipline focused on assisting the client and significant support person(s) to achieve an optimal level of self-care, while protecting and promoting client dignity. The science of nursing is a distinct, constantly evolving body of knowledge that encompasses rational and scientific principles upon which nursing interventions are based. Plan of care is flexible, client centered, cost effective, attentive to client diversity, and occurs within the context of the client's family and environment. Nurses utilize the nursing process, therapeutic communication, critical thinking, evidence-based information while working collaboratively with members of the health-care team. Nurses function within the standards of practice, demonstrating safe, competent, ethical practice.

The **individual** is a valued, complex and unique being that has a dynamic capacity for self care. The individual is understood as an integrated and whole being who functions biologically, psychologically, socially, spiritually and developmentally. The individual has the potential to make choices that will meet his/her own needs for self-care.

Environment – Individuals are best understood in the context of their environment. The environment consists of evolving, dynamic, culturally diverse conditions, which are influenced by family, specific living conditions, political, social, demographic, and economic factors.

Health is a state of physical, social, and spiritual well-being and not merely the absence of illness. Health status exists on a continuum and varies because of interactions between the client and the environment.

Teaching/Learning is an active, dynamic, continuous process of attaining and sharing knowledge, involving the client, significant support person(s) and the health care team. As educators, nurses assist the client/families by supporting self-care activities, while facilitating informed decision and achievement of positive outcomes.

Nursing education/scholarship occurs within a system of higher education and is a planned approach to the acquisition of knowledge. Nursing education progresses from the simple to the complex, facilitates the development of cognitive, psychomotor and affective knowledge and provides for multiple points of entry into the profession. The outcome of nursing education, at all levels, is to prepare a graduate who accepts professional responsibility and accountability. Nursing education supports participation in professional organizations. Cultural diversity within the classroom is valued and promotes appreciation and respect for differences within the college and beyond. The role of the faculty is to guide, support, facilitate learning, and model professional practice, while instilling commitment to lifelong learning. Faculty also strive to instill a sense of professional empowerment including commitment to social justice and community service. The role of the student is to translate classroom learning into nursing practice through critical thinking and reflective nursing practice.

Practical Nursing provides basic therapeutic, restorative, and preventative nursing care for individual clients in structured health care settings who have common, well-defined health problems. Practical nurses collaborate with health team members, clients, and families and contribute to client assessments (data collection) and care planning.

The Associate Degree Nurse advances the nursing process to implement nursing actions in varied complex settings, and assist clients in meeting or maintaining self-care needs. The associate degree nurse collaborates with other members of the health care team to give direct care to clients, families, and community groups. The associate degree nurse is also responsible for the delegation of nursing action.