



Westminster Campus Nursing Program Department Philosophy

The nursing faculty believes that nursing is an art and science that promotes optimal function of the individual by maintaining, improving, or recovering physical, mental, socio-cultural and spiritual health across the life span. Changing needs of society require varying patterns of practice and delivery of health services occurring in a variety of settings. Therefore, the faculty believes in the value of integrating general education and promoting educational mobility through our support of the Colorado Articulation Model. We, the nursing faculty, plan and implement a program of study from the following beliefs about health, society, individuals, nursing, nursing education, teaching/learning, and professionalism.

Health

Health is a dynamic state that is influenced by inherited characteristics, environment, and life experiences. Wellness is defined by the individual's perception of wellness and influenced by the presence of disease and individual's ability to adapt. Health and wellness are ever-changing states of physical, psychological, social and spiritual wellbeing. Health is not merely the absence of disease but the optimal level of functioning for each individual. Health and illness are inevitable dimensions of the person's life and are not mutually exclusive. Individuals have an inherent right to be active participants in achieving health as they perceive it.

Community

Society consists of dynamic and interactive systems involving individuals, families, groups and communities. These systems are influenced by variables such as diverse populations of cultures, races, socioeconomic levels, religions, lifestyles, environmental changes, and political and economic influences. Nurses recognize and respect human differences and diversity of populations within society.

Individual

The individual is unique and complex, a holistic being of biological, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual dimensions. Each individual operates within a personally determined value system which is acquired and shaped through experience, personal judgments, and interaction. An individual interacts holistically with the environment, and strives for balance and a sense of well being within personal and societal contexts. Individuals have the right and responsibility to be informed in order to make choices about their health and health care. 5

Revised 1/19/10 FRCC-W



Nursing

Nursing is a profession deriving knowledge from the arts, sciences, humanities, and human experience. As a scholarly discipline, nursing utilizes diverse theories to formulate an evidence-based practice that promotes, maintains and restores optimal functioning. Nursing as an art and science incorporates the following into practice: clinical competence, critical thinking, communication, teaching/learning, professionalism, caring, and cultural competency. The nursing process is utilized by nurses as they function in the roles as provider, teacher, manager, member of the profession and advocate. Nurses collaborate with diverse disciplines in formulating solutions to individual and community health problems. Nursing practice requires commitment to professional development to facilitate evidence-based practice in response to emerging health care issues, scientific discoveries and new technologies in the profession. Nursing practice also requires personal commitment to life long learning.

Nursing Education

Learning is the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills and is a lifelong process. Learning is the cultivation of the potential of the individual learning that is meaningful and participatory, stimulates intellect, curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. The educational process is a cooperative interaction between students and faculty. Diverse teaching/learning strategies are utilized to meet individualized needs of students in both the academic and practice settings. Through the educational process, students assimilate and synthesize knowledge, cultivate critical thinking abilities, and develop care strategies that reflect standards of care that address the areas of cultural humility, communication, technology, and therapeutic intervention. Nursing education is concerned with helping the individual to understand and utilize the nursing process, and incorporate standards of nursing professional nursing practice.

Teaching/Learning

Faculties utilize teaching and learning theories to organize and evaluate learning situations. Faculties believe that learning is a process which supports the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills. Learners and educators interact in a process whereby students gain competency required to function within their scope of practice

Professionalism

Nursing is not only a science (knowledge and skills) but also an art (caring, compassion and professionalism). Professionalism includes accountability, advocacy, a sense of responsibility and a commitment to professional ethical behavior. The expectation in the Nursing Program is that students must demonstrate professional and caring behaviors and attitudes.