

A Model of a Philosophy

Mission

The Associate Degree Nursing program supports the mission of the North Carolina Community College System and the mission of _____ Community College. The faculty is committed to providing accessible high quality nursing education to meet the diverse and changing health-care needs of the service area and to promoting the development of qualified students prepared for the professional role of registered nurse at the entry level. Graduates of this program meet the education requirements to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN). The philosophy of the Associate Degree Nursing Program is derived from statements about the health, quality of life, achievement of potential, the individual, environment, health, nursing, the practice, and education of the Associate Degree Nurse. Within this mission, the goal of nursing faculty is to promote the highest quality of nursing care to the individual, families and significant persons, and the community. The aim is to facilitate optimum health, quality of life and achievement of potential for the individual.

The Associate Degree Nurse

The graduate of the Associate Degree Nursing program at _____ Community College is prepared to meet the educational competencies defined by the National League for Nursing and the Nursing Practice Act of North Carolina. The practice of nursing is directed toward meeting the health care needs of individuals throughout their lifespan. The ADN prepared nurse's role is characterized by evidence-based clinical practice with the provision of care for individuals and families in structured settings. The ADN graduate demonstrates the competencies identified by the National League of Nursing (2000) and the Institute of Medicine (2004) to provide nursing care

Associate Degree Nursing Education

Nursing education at the associate degree level, in the North Carolina Community College System, is a process that facilitates changes in behavior, the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to function in the role of the entry-level nurse. The curriculum is conceptually based and founded on principles of adult and collaborative learning. Basic assumptions include self-direction, utilizing adult experience, problem- and activity-centered learning. (Rachel, 2002)

It incorporates evidence-based nursing theory and practice, general education, and the sciences in an environment conducive to learning. The conceptual design defines the essential elements as the environment, quality of life, achievement of potential, and health. The organizing framework contains content related to the individual, the health care system and nursing.

The Associate Degree nursing program at _____ Community College provides an education that is flexible, progressive, and sensitive to the changing needs of the individual, significant support person(s), and community. Through these educational experiences, students will have the opportunity to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

The Associate Degree Nursing Curriculum is based on learning theory rooted in neurobiology. Neuroscientists discovered that the brain develops circuitry and grows as a result of experience and learning. Learning is about making connections. Neurologists and cognitive scientists agree that humans build their minds by “constructing” mental structures and “hands-on” concrete application that connects and organizes information. Barkley, Cross & Major (2005)

Learning is a continuous process that results in a change of behavior and occurs when the individual is challenged and motivated to enhance personal knowledge. Teaching and learning is an interactive process between teacher and learner. The responsibility of the faculty of _____ Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program is to facilitate the student’s understanding and ability to meet the competencies for nursing practice through the design and evaluation of learning experiences. The nursing student is responsible for actively participating in learning experiences and develops the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to provide quality individual centered nursing care.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual model provides a mental scaffold or framework to prepare learners for new instruction and motivates by making a meaningful connection for the learner. The learner must attain mastery of each part of the framework; the individual, the healthcare system and nursing in order to understand the complete curriculum. (Knowles, 2005). The domains of the individual, the healthcare system, and nursing provide the conceptual framework guiding the associate degree nursing curriculum. Concepts are organized within each these domains and learning occurs from simple to complex.

Definitions:

Individual

The faculty of _____ Community College believe that each individual is a complex, multidimensional, unique, and significant being possessing inherent value and worth, and a member of a family, community, and culturally diverse society. All individuals have dynamic bio-physical, psychological, socio-cultural, spiritual, and developmental needs that contribute to health, quality of life, and achievement of potential. Adaptation to the environment requires the individual to change throughout the lifespan. Each individual has a right to healthcare and to information that will assist him or her to participate actively in his or her health care in order to achieve the highest level of wellness possible. All individuals should be cared for, respected, nurtured, understood, and assisted. In order to provide and manage care, nurses must view the individual at the center of any nursing activity.

Healthcare System

According to von Bertalanffy (1968) a system consists of the coming together of parts, the power comes from the energy of the interconnection and the way the parts come together. The community healthcare system is a macrosystem and consists of a variety of parts or microsystems. Clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, laboratories, long term care and Internet sites are microsystems that are connected by patients and information to improve health. (IOM, 2001)

Nursing

Nursing is a science and the art of integrating and assimilating knowledge and skills derived from biological, sociological, and behavioral sciences and information technology to deliver client-centered, culturally competent, holistic care. Through caring, empathy, ethics, and the development of a therapeutic relationship with the individual and significant support person(s), the nurse integrates the art of nursing with the scientific foundation for nursing practice that utilizes the nursing process. Incorporating documented best practice, the nurse functions autonomously and collaboratively with the interdisciplinary team to assist individuals to reach their maximum health potential through assurance of quality client outcomes, promotion of wellness, prevention of illness, and restoration of health or assistance in achieving a dignified death.

Environment

The individual is in constant interaction with a changing environment that consists of both internal and external forces that varies throughout the lifespan and has the potential to cause stress in the individual. The nurse can assist the individual to alter aspects of the environment and to utilize his/her innate and learned coping mechanisms to adapt to these stressors.

Health

Health is a dynamic, ever-changing state of mental, physical, and spiritual well-being, which exists on a continuum from optimal wellness to illness and ending in death. The individual's needs for healthcare are determined by his/her position on the continuum. Each individual's health is based on his/her cultural perceptions and beliefs of health and illness and the ability to adapt to internal and external environmental forces. The individual is responsible for and capable of identifying, learning, and practicing health behaviors that can promote wellness, prevent illness, restore or maintain wellness, or achieve a dignified death.

Quality of Life

Quality of life involves five domains including physical, functional, psychological, social, and spiritual well being. The individual's perception of and satisfaction with activities of daily living contributes to their worth, meaning, or satisfaction. This empowers the individual to cope successfully with the full range of challenges encountered in the real world. (Ignatavicius: Med-Surg Nursing 5th Ed p.5)

Achievement of Potential

Achievement of potential is the individual's growth toward attaining one's utmost ability and quality of life. It is based on the individual's choices, perceptions, personal goals, life experiences, and holistic health.

NLNAC Core Competencies

The eight core competencies outlined by the NLN are; professional behaviors, communication, assessment, clinical decision making, caring interventions, teaching and learning, collaboration, and managing care. (NLN, 2000)

Institute of Medicine Competencies

The five core competencies identified by the IOM for healthcare providers are; patient centered care, interdisciplinary teams, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and informatics. (IOM, 2005)

Berman, A. Snyder, S., Kozier, H., Erb. G.. (2008). Kozier & Erb's Fundamentals of Nursing: Concepts , Process and Practices, 8th Edition Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle Creek, NJ.

Ignatavicius: Med-Surg Nursing 5th Ed p.5

IOM, (2005)

Knowles, (2005)

NLN, .(2000)

Rachel, (2002)