

# ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

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## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the community with competent beginning nursing professionals.

## PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The educational philosophy of the Associate of Science in Nursing program evolves from a commitment to the college Vision, Mission and Values and an interest in providing the community with competent beginning nurse professionals. The faculty believes this philosophy is best accomplished by providing future professionals with a learning environment modeled by scholarly educators who are professional, competent, and service-oriented. The educational environment must foster quality in scholarship and promote accountability, professionalism and service-orientation.

The faculty believes an associate degree nurse is a nursing generalist who is prepared to successfully take the National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN). The associate degree nurse is accountable, adaptable, and capable of functioning as a Registered Nurse in a variety of settings.

Central to the faculty's beliefs are important concepts of our eclectic philosophy, which include holistic nursing, client, health, environment and education.

- **Holistic nursing** is an applied science, utilizing knowledge and skills attained in the disciplines of natural and social sciences, humanities, mathematics, arts, and nursing courses. As both an art and an emerging scientific discipline, nursing uses communication, technology, critical thinking, values, research, and leadership in the assessment and implementation of quality care across the lifespan. By utilizing critical thinking and decision making, nursing formulates a plan of care to assist the client in maintaining a state of optimal well-being. Nursing focuses on a caring practice to assist, support or delegate the actions of others, as appropriate, to promote wellness, prevent illness, or help the client face limitations or death. The faculty believes in preparing nurses to be competent professionals, who practice in a legal and ethical manner in a variety of professional roles. Utilizing effective communication techniques and caring principles, nursing practice encompasses both independent interventions and collaboration with other healthcare providers.
- **Client** is an individual with biophysical, psychosocial, cultural, and spiritual components. Continual change results when the client, a dynamic entity, interacts with others and the environment. The client possesses the freedom to think, to choose, and to act. The client is influenced by internal and external factors that affect optimal health. Nursing recognizes the significance of relationships within families, groups, and communities as these relationships can both alter and support health status. An individual becomes a client when served by the healthcare provider.
- **Health** is a dynamic phenomenon defined by the client's perceptions of his or her holistic well-being or optimal system functioning. Disruption in health is caused by imbalances of any internal or external subsystem. The faculty views health on a continuum with varying degrees of well-being and diminished health. Optimal health is achieved through interaction with the healthcare system. Nurses

can function at any point on the continuum with the primary focus of nursing care being health promotion and health maintenance.

- **Environment** includes all internal and external dimensions that affect the dynamic relationships of a client. The healthcare delivery system is affected by the environment. The environment is constantly changing and the nurse must be goal-directed to provide an environment conducive to the client's optimal health. Throughout the nursing program, students will be exposed to a variety of health care environments and will incorporate the impact of these environments into their work and nursing care.
- **Education** is a lifelong process for both the nurse and the client. Nursing education should include general and scientific knowledge to prepare the nurse with a foundation for service and practice today and in the future. Education should be individualized, taking into account cultural diversity, health beliefs, and individual learning styles. Through education, the learner develops the skills of critical thinking, independent and collaborative decision-making, communication, value formation, and cultural sensitivity. Effective learning is optimized through educational principles which incorporate and respect the learner's and the client's values, health beliefs, life experience, and previous knowledge. Learning is cultivated by a commitment to personal and professional development through inquiry, self-motivation, and respect for the uniqueness of individuals.

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