

PHILOSOPHY

We, the Nursing Faculty at Colby Community College, believe that:

Man*, a developmental being in a dynamic environment, is our greatest resource. Emphasis is placed on the holistic person, his worth and dignity, his family, and role in society. Maintenance, fulfillment, and integrity of the person's basic human needs throughout the life span, from conception through death, provide the focus on health which is the basic right of every individual.

Society is the interaction of human beings who must share geographical space, and resources. Culture, history, and behavioral guidelines are passed on through the contact of persons. As we come to understand our differences and likenesses we can relate to one another in a more therapeutic way.

"Health is a state of well-being in which the person is able to use purposeful, adaptive responses and processes, physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and socially, in response to internal and external stimuli (stressors) to maintain relative stability and comfort and to strive for personal objectives and cultural goals." (Murray and Zentner, 1993). Holistic health is a state of well-being of body and mind including an attitude of self-responsibility for one's basic needs and a sense of purpose. Unmet basic human needs result in alteration, violation, or illness.

Nursing is an art and science consisting of a dynamic, specialized body of knowledge and skills requiring ongoing education. Nursing strives to meet the biological and psychosocial needs of the whole person in health and illness throughout the life span. To be most effective, nursing should be practiced in a systematic, goal-directed nursing process. Nursing is an integral part of the health care system.

The current scope of nursing practice contains three levels of care providers--practical, technical, and professional. In practice all three levels interface to provide health care.

The practical nurse, functioning within the Nurse Practice Act under the supervision of the registered nurse or the physician, contributes with other members of the health team, in a structured setting, to health care. Practical nursing is primarily concerned with assisting persons to meet their basic needs to promote health and prevent illness, to regain health when possible, or attain an optimal level of function. The practical nurse encourages appropriate self-care or gives direct care to those persons who cannot otherwise meet their own needs.

The associate degree nurse, functioning within the Nurse Practice Act, contributes with other members of the health care team, in a structured setting, to health care. Associate degree nursing is primarily concerned with utilizing the nursing process to provide care for individual and group clients who are experiencing complex health problems in acute- and extended-care facilities. Nursing protocols guide nursing interventions to achieve predictable probable outcomes.

Learning is a process by which individuals are helped to develop insights and move toward achievement of educational goals. Learning brings about change resulting in growth and changes in behavior which affect the thinking, acting, and feeling of the individual. Education is an ongoing process of interactions which facilitates learning. Education is most effective and efficient when learning is active, when goals are identified, and when expected behavioral outcomes are measurable. Educational goals can best be achieved by planning the learning experiences to progress from the simple to the complex, from the known to the unknown, and building on previous experiences. Evaluation is an integral part of the educational process and should be based on known measurable behavioral objectives and outcomes.

Nursing education is concerned with the student's growth and development. This education is a continuing process of learning and acquiring basic, technical knowledge and skills with awareness of biological and psychosocial needs. Knowledge of the role of the nurse in meeting the health needs of self and others is a major aspect. Application of knowledge leads to increased retention, therefore nursing education must be centered around direct care providing learning experiences that reinforce classroom learning. Nursing education should be designed to provide educational mobility in the nursing profession between the levels of practice. In accordance with the Kansas State Department of Education Community Colleges/Vocational Education Department's requirements and the College's philosophy, education is equally available to all individuals who meet the program qualifications regardless of age, race, creed, or sex.

The goal of the faculty is to provide a realistic educational program in nursing which meets the health needs of a dynamic society, recognizes the unique needs of the learner and, establishes an environment conducive to learning. Faculty responsibility is to assist, plan, implement, and evaluate the program and student learning experiences. Interactions occur between the students, the teachers, and the environment. Student involvement is important to learning. The instructor serves as a role model of nursing and a facilitator of learning, but it is the student who is ultimately responsible for his own learning. Since professional nursing preparation includes components of practical and technical preparation, PN and ADN education may potentially serve as a step toward the professional nursing level. The nursing faculty at Colby Community College supports the concept of educational mobility and actively facilitates career progression throughout the scope of nursing practice.

* Mankind