

Organizing Framework

The Cuyahoga Community College Associate Degree Nursing Faculty has developed an organizing framework to provide direction for the nursing curriculum and opportunity for optimal student learning. The organizing framework is derived from the philosophy and provides a basis for the content and sequence of courses.

Cuyahoga Community College is located in a large, industrial, urban setting. It serves the residents of the Greater Cleveland area and draws students from this area and other areas. These college students are adult learners from multicultural backgrounds. Opportunities for student learning are diverse and enriched by exposure to community-based and internationally known healthcare facilities. Students' progress through a curriculum designed to increase critical thinking ability and knowledge based **upon** concepts of self-care for individuals, families, groups, and society. Upon completion of the program, graduates are prepared for entry-level positions in nursing and are eligible to write the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

The organizing framework is based on Dorothea Orem's Self-Care Deficit Theory of Nursing which states that individuals function and maintain life, health, and well-being through self-care. Nursing focuses on the identification of self-care deficits, analysis, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the individual's ability to meet self-care needs. Care may be provided by family members or others until an individual is able to meet their own self-care needs. Also incorporated into this framework are concepts regarding the individual, society, health, and nursing.

The Individual is viewed as a unique biopsychosocial, spiritual being who exists within the structure of a family, culture, society, and environment. The individual has the potential for growth and development and the ability to meet self-care needs. The individual is capable of thought, learning, reflection, and achievement of maximum potential. Orem not only views the individual as self-reliant but also as responsible for assisting dependents in meeting self-care needs.

Society is a complex ever-changing system composed of groups of individuals and is influenced by cultural diversity and environment. Cultural diversity enriches and strengthens the total society. Cultural beliefs/values influence the way an individual meets self-care needs. A change in either the individual or the environment will affect one's ability to perform self-care.

Health is a dynamic, interactive balanced state among society, environment, and the individual's biopsychosocial and spiritual needs. Health is a progressive movement toward the achievement of maximum individual potential. Illness is the result of an unbalanced state in which individuals are unable to meet all of their self-care needs. To promote health throughout the life span, universal self-care needs, developmental self-care needs, and health deviation self-care needs must be addressed.

Nursing is an art and a science concerned with helping individuals, families, groups and society meet self-care needs. Nurses use critical thinking, the nursing process, communication skills, and therapeutic nursing interventions to help people attain, regain, and maintain optimal health and cope with illness and death. Orem defines nursing as the giving of assistance to individuals when they are unable to meet their own self-care needs.

Six major themes have been identified and incorporated into the curriculum through the organizing framework. These themes are Nursing Process, Critical Thinking, Communication, Human Development, Cultural Diversity, and the Role of the Associate Degree Nurse. These themes are defined as follows:

Nursing Process

Nursing Process is central to nursing practice. The five steps of the nursing process: assessment, analysis, planning, implementation, and evaluation provide the framework for delivery of patient care and are the structure for course content in the Nursing Education Program.

Critical Thinking

Critical Thinking is the process of purposeful, self-regulatory judgment. This process gives reasoned consideration to practice based on evidence, contexts, conceptualizations, methods, and criteria. Critical thinking, in conjunction with the nursing process, is the basis for making clinical decisions.

Communication

Communication is a dynamic, interactive process that encompasses the teaching/learning process. Communication is essential in collaborating with members of the healthcare team to meet the self-care needs of patients. Effective oral, written, and non-verbal communication skills are necessary to apply the nursing process, to promote self-care, and to guide and teach patients. Teaching and learning techniques are incorporated throughout the program. Nursing students use therapeutic communication techniques with individuals, families, and groups to further the goal of self-care.

Human Development

All human beings have specialized growth and developmental needs and related tasks to accomplish at various stages of the life span. Individuals differ in their ability to meet self-care needs. The amount of assistance needed to meet self-care needs is affected by developmental stage and adverse effects of illness. Students are provided with opportunities to assist individuals to meet self-care needs at different developmental stages.

Cultural Diversity

Cultural and socioeconomic factors influence ability to meet self-care needs. Variations in self-care result from unique life experiences. Cultural norms are learned first in the family and then in societal groups. Students are exposed to the impact of socioeconomic and cultural diversity both in the classroom and in clinical agencies. Knowledge of cultural variation is incorporated when planning and implementing nursing care.

Role of the Associate Degree Nurse

Delivers safe, competent, and quality patient centered nursing care in the roles of: provider of care, manager of care, and member of the discipline of Nursing. The Nurse adheres to ethical and legal standards of the nursing profession. The Nurse applies knowledge of biopsychosocial and scientific principles when providing technically competent care. The Nurse collaborates with and delegates to others to manage the care of groups of individuals and families in a variety of healthcare settings.