

## Philosophy

The Associate Degree Nursing Education Division is an integral part of Cuyahoga Community College. The Philosophy of the Associate Degree Nursing faculty is consistent with the general mission of the College, which is to provide high quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities and services to all members of the community. The educational environment of the College is designed to promote individual development and to improve the overall quality of life in a multicultural community.

The Philosophy of the Associate Degree Nursing Faculty of Cuyahoga Community College encompasses beliefs concerning the individual, society, health, nursing, and teaching / learning. These concepts are an integral part of the Associate Degree Nursing Education Program. We believe:

The Individual is a unique, biopsychosocial, spiritual being who exists within the structure of a family, culture, society, and environment. The individual has human needs and the potential for growth and development along the age continuum. These needs are affected by heredity, culture, socioeconomic, spiritual, and environmental factors. The individual is capable of learning and achievement of their maximum potential. Dynamic external and internal forces influence the individual's ability to regulate factors that promote/maintain life, health, and well-being.

Society is a complex, dynamic structure created by groups of individuals and influenced by diversity of culture and environment. Within society, individuals and groups attempt to maintain health by meeting universal self-care needs, maintaining homeostasis, and achieving maximum potential. Acknowledgment and acceptance of cultural diversity in society adds strength to its structure and function. To promote health in an ever-changing society, individual and societal needs and goals must be recognized and analyzed. This improves the overall quality of life in a multicultural community.

Health is a dynamic interaction among society, environment, and the individual's biopsychosocial and spiritual needs. Health is a progressive movement toward the achievement of maximum potential and is a state of optimal functioning, or wellness, which is unique for each person. Any disturbance in this interrelationship may result in an altered state of health or illness which is influenced by each individual's perception. Disease is an abnormal process which occurs as the result of changes in the individual's biopsychosocial integrity.

Nursing is an art and a science concerned with helping individuals, families, groups and society meet their self-care needs. Through collaborative and independent action, nurses protect, nurture, and facilitate change through patient centered care. Nurses use critical thinking, the process of purposeful self-regulatory judgment, in conjunction with the nursing process, to help people attain, regain, and maintain maximum health and cope with illness and death. Nursing, a deliberate process, involves the utilization of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills, in conjunction with communication skills and therapeutic nursing interventions. Nurses respect human dignity and the uniqueness of the individual by providing safe, effective, and quality nursing care.

The Associate Degree Nurse is a provider of care, manager of care, and a member of the discipline of nursing. The Associate Degree Nurse uses critical thinking to assess, analyze, plan, implement, and evaluate nursing care for groups of individuals and families in a variety of healthcare settings. As provider and manager of care, the Associate Degree Nurse collaborates and delegates as an independent and interdependent member of the healthcare team to provide technically competent care. The Associate Degree Nurse also practices within the ethical/legal framework of the nursing profession.

Teaching/Learning is an interactive process between teachers and learners which results in change in cognitive, affective, and psychomotor behaviors. Learning is a lifelong process which assists individuals to assimilate, integrate and synthesize information in such a way that it may be applied. Learning is an active process that is enhanced in a supportive environment that recognizes cultural diversity, societal needs and individuals' abilities and learning styles. Based on these individual learning styles and abilities, the Associate Degree Nursing Education Division provides diverse resources to foster the progression of the learner.

Teaching embodies establishing objectives, organizing materials, designing learning strategies, and evaluating student performance. The nursing education process proceeds from simple to complex, and provides essential teaching-learning strategies by which the student may achieve the goals of the program. The teacher's primary role is that of facilitator and motivator in the mutually shared teaching/learning experience.

The Associate Degree Nursing Program at Cuyahoga Community College is a career-oriented program leading to an Associate in Applied Science Degree with a major in nursing. The program provides high quality, accessible, and affordable education. The program is dedicated to providing equal opportunity for all students, promoting individual development, and improving the overall quality of life in a multicultural community.

The Associate Degree Nursing Education Program is committed to extending broad educational opportunities to a non-traditional student body. It is built on nursing concepts and skills that enable the nurse to adapt in a changing society. Based on the cooperative relationship with community agencies, students are provided with opportunities to develop clinical skills in diverse healthcare settings. Upon successful completion of the program, the graduates are prepared for entry-level nursing positions and are eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

SOURCE: ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK 2013-2014