

## ***PENINSULA COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY***

### **Vision**

The Peninsula College Nursing Program has a vision of graduating students who exemplify ethical, caring, knowledgeable and technically competent nursing practice in any health care setting. We, as faculty and students, strive to be an asset to the profession of nursing and the community in which we serve.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Nursing Department is to provide a quality nursing education program whose graduates help meet the health care needs of the community.

## ***NURSING PROGRAM VALUES: OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES***

- Teaching/learning process is central to the mission of the Nursing Program.
- Members of the Nursing Program community treat each other, the campus community, clinical partners and patients with mutual respect and dignity
- Members of the Nursing Program are open and honest in their communication
- Members of the Nursing Program promote a positive work and learning environment that avoids adversarial relationships
- Members of the Nursing Program act ethically and with integrity
  
- Members of the Nursing Program engage in collaborative decision-making processes within our college and program, and with our clinical partners and patients

## ***NURSING PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS***

### **Philosophy of Nursing**

Nursing is a health profession practicing in a changing society, blending a unique web of principles from behavioral, physical, and biological sciences in the practice of nursing. The nursing faculty believes that nursing is a learned humanistic art and science that provides holistic care to promote wellness and prevent illness.

### **The Client**

The client is an individual (of any age), a family, a community, or the environment. Individual human beings are viewed as biopsychosocial-cultural-spiritual beings, existing within families (significant others), within communities (society), within their environment (surroundings). Human beings are open systems within a changing environment, maintaining a dynamic equilibrium. Maslow's hierarchy provides the fundamental concepts for our view on human needs theory.

### **Wellness/Illness Continuum**

Wellness/illness is viewed on a continuum as a multidimensional response of people to their environment. High-level wellness is viewed as a desirable goal for all individuals. It includes the concept that individuals accept responsibility for their own wellness and are moving towards self-actualization. Illness occurs when an individual either has too many stressors or too few coping skills resulting in disequilibrium.

### **Nursing**

The ultimate goal of nursing is to help clients make informed (evidence based) choices about their health and attain or maintain the highest level of wellness possible. The nursing process is the primary tool by which this goal is accomplished. The nurse's role is to use critical thinking skills to identify intrapersonal, interpersonal, and extra personal stressors and to assist the individual to cope with these

stressors. The nurse communicates and collaborates with the client, family, and other members of the health care team in establishing goals and planning interventions.

#### **The Nurse**

The professional nurse is caregiver, teacher, counselor, facilitator, advocate, leader, manager, and researcher. The nurse incorporates principles from the arts and sciences to deliver care in a helping relationship.

#### **The Responsibilities of Professional Nursing**

The faculty also believes that nursing is accountable to the public for safe and quality health care. The profession of nursing should regulate the preparation and performance qualifications of any personnel who provide nursing services to clients.

#### **Nursing Education**

The faculty believes that lifelong learning is integral to the profession of nursing and that all levels of nursing personnel assume responsibility for acquiring new knowledge and skills through continuing education. The faculty also believes that basic knowledge in sciences and humanities, as well as nursing knowledge and skills are realistically achievable in a community college setting. Completion of the program provides a foundation for continued learning, skill development, and career growth. The graduate from the ADN program in nursing should be able to progress to the baccalaureate level and beyond without undue repetition.

#### **Nursing Students**

The faculty believes that students must take responsibility for their own learning and demonstrate commitment to study and the practice of skills. It is the responsibility of students to take initiative to seek assistance as needed for their learning.

#### **Learning/Teaching**

Learning is an ongoing process that can take place in any setting, but does so more effectively in a structured atmosphere with active involvement of the learner. Adult learners have much to learn from each other as well as from the teacher. Exchange of ideas and concerns contribute to the learning experience. Learning occurs best when going from simple to complex, from familiar to unfamiliar. Hands-on practice is essential to the development and mastery of skills.

Teaching is the art and science of structuring content for student learning. This involves providing learning materials and learning experiences to match the students' varied learning styles. Diverse learning styles are recognized and addressed with varied teaching approaches. Learning takes place in classroom, lab, and clinical settings. Observing professionals, participating in simulation and interacting with patients are valuable learning experiences. Group activities, role-playing, oral presentations, written assignments and clinical paperwork provide opportunities to practice communication and professional nursing skill sets while preparing students for the role of the professional nurse.

The teacher functions as a role model, facilitating student self-growth, and the quest for knowledge, rather than giving specific answers or content. The nursing teacher's greatest responsibility is to help students learn critical thinking skills, primarily through the nursing process. Students can then apply their nursing knowledge to any clinical situation and develop appropriate plans for client care. Positive feedback and success build confidence, foster growth and facilitate the development of positive attitudes and eagerness to learn more.