

Tidewater Community College

The Beazley School of Nursing

Registered Nursing Program

Philosophy and Outcomes of the Nursing Program

The philosophy and outcomes of the nursing program were developed by the faculty to reflect the mission of Tidewater Community College. The college offers a two-year nursing program leading to an Associate of Applied Science Degree designed to prepare selected students to render direct patient care as beginning practitioners of professional nursing in various healthcare facilities.

The academic climate affords students the opportunity to acquire skills and gain knowledge needed for immediate employment as safe practitioners of nursing at the associate degree level. It also provides the student with the basic skills needed to function as a self-confident, socially aware individual in an ever-changing society. This preparation may be used as a base for continuing education and for professional development.

The nursing faculty recognizes that society directs the healthcare needs of communities. Society is composed of community individuals, families, and groups who demonstrate patterns of relationships which are influenced by cultural dynamics and values.

The nursing faculty acknowledges that man is a unique bio-psychosocial being with intrinsic worth, reacting constantly to internal and external stressors as he directs his own health-related behavior. Therefore, we believe that nursing is holistic health-care focusing on promotion, maintenance and restoration of health across the life span, considering socio-cultural, religious, and ethnic factors. The nursing process is utilized to appraise and alter the environment so that it is conducive to maximum individual adaptation on a health-illness continuum from high level wellness to severe illness.

The increasing importance of health promotion is recognized as an essential component of nursing practice and is incorporated as appropriate. The nurse is recognized as a member of the healthcare team who collaborates with other related disciplines in the delivery of cost-effective care. Through the use of critical thinking, clinical judgment, and decision making, the nurse applies specific knowledge to assist meeting the needs of patients of all ages. This includes the appropriate directing and delegating of patient care to others.

The faculty agrees that nursing education is a process which is flexible and responsive to the changing needs of society. Nursing education utilizes principles gathered from the natural and social sciences, the humanities, and from nursing concepts and theories. We believe students are active participants in their educational process; thus, following a series of cognitive operations and conceptualizations, students utilize

critical thinking to plan and implement integrated responses to the environment in which they are placed. The teacher creates a learning environment in which individual needs, interests, abilities, and feelings are identified.

We recognize that each student is a product of previously gained value systems affected by socio-cultural and experiential factors which influence the result of the teaching-learning process. Therefore, the nursing curriculum provides an appropriate distribution between general education and nursing courses in order to attain the desired outcomes. Multiple instructional methodologies and planned clinical experiences in varied community agencies facilitate the implementation of the curriculum and augment the learning process. The environment provides the student appropriate opportunity for progress through continuing, in-depth, and periodic evaluation.

The faculty agrees that the associate degree nurse is a generalist who utilizes the nursing process to care for the individual with common well-defined health problems, in structured settings where protocol or procedure is established and ideally under the supervision of a baccalaureate nurse.

The nursing faculty supports the core components and competencies of the ADN graduate as set forth by the National League for Nursing. The core components for the associate degree nurse include: professional behaviors, communication, assessment, critical thinking, therapeutic interventions, teaching and learning, collaboration and managing care. The competencies of the Associate Degree Nursing program are derived from these core components. The core components are those elements essential for entry into associate degree nursing practice. The practice of a graduate from an associate degree nursing program is characterized by critical thinking, clinical competence, accountability, adhering to high standards of nursing practice and a commitment to the value of caring. The associate degree nurse uses interpersonal communication skills to interact with patients, families, significant others, and members of the healthcare team. Communication involves verbal, non-verbal, and written components. The role of the nurse in conflict resolution relies heavily on effective communication skills. Therapeutic skills and documentation are critical applications of communications skills. The associate degree nurse manages care through collaboration, organization, delegation, accountability, advocacy, and respect for other healthcare workers. The practice of a graduate from an associate degree nursing program is committed professional growth, continuous learning and self-development.

The graduate of this program is eligible to write the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). This nurse is able to perform at the established competency level of an associate degree nurse, as established by the National League for Nursing (NLN) and the Virginia Board of Nursing, after adequate orientation in healthcare facilities.

The following programs outcomes have been established for the nursing program. The graduate demonstrate competency by:

1. Utilizing critical thinking to integrate principles from the natural and social sciences, nursing theories and concepts, and the humanities, to provide competent nursing care

aimed at the protection, promotion, maintenance and restoration of health for the individual, family and community that is evidenced based.

2. Promoting health through the individual's adaptation to stressors/health problems throughout the life span through teaching about health and illness as a part of the nursing process.
3. Collaborating with the patient, family, and the healthcare team to obtain knowledge of the individual's reaction to therapy, to assist with the overall evaluation of the outcome of provided healthcare.
4. Demonstrating therapeutic communication in collaboration with patients, families, health team members and others within racially and culturally diverse settings.
5. Managing nursing care for a group of patients using the nursing process and assisting other nursing personnel to improve skills while providing therapeutic interventions in various settings
6. Being accountable for nursing judgments and actions consistent with the practicing components of the associate degree nurse by recognizing self-competencies, self-limitations, and ethical decision making within the scope of practice.
7. Assuming responsibility for continued learning and self-development in order to be responsive to the changing demands of society and the nursing profession.
8. Using current and emerging technologies in providing competent cost effective care across the continuum.
9. Synthesizing assessment skills that incorporate evidence based information which formulates the basis for therapeutic interventions and decision making.