

Philosophy of the Nursing Department – Final Draft

Consistent with the stated mission of Daemen College, the nursing philosophy embodies compassion, personal and professional commitment, and lifelong learning. The complexity of healthcare demands Registered Nurses (RNs) in different levels of practice with a variety of educational backgrounds as crucial members of the health care team. Baccalaureate education is viewed as the foundation for professional practice. Graduate education builds on baccalaureate education through the acquisition of advanced knowledge, skill, and technology proficiency that would facilitate complex decision making to prepare nurses for independent advanced practice in clinical, education, research, and leadership roles.

The faculty views professionalism as the consistent demonstration of core nursing values. Caring and compassion are essential to professional nursing practice. Professionalism involves accountability for ones self and nursing practice through the demonstration of professional standards of moral, ethical, and legal conduct. Nursing embodies continuous professional engagement to assure competent practice. Service to the community and the profession are essential components of professionalism.

Daemen seeks to build on the RNs existing knowledge to prepare nurses as leaders in the healthcare community. Leadership promotes ethical, critical decision-making as the nurse designs, coordinates, and manages patient care at all levels of practice. Nurse leaders are necessary to shape healthcare policy and to organize healthcare delivery systems that span the continuum from acute to community based care. Leadership involves the utilization of interpersonal skills to influence others to move toward achieving a vision or goal with emphasis on practice, improving health outcomes, and ensuring patient safety. The curriculum emphasizes leadership practice, improvement of health outcomes, and ensuring of patient safety.

Central to the nurse's ability to provide care as a leader in a complex world is clinical reasoning. Clinical reasoning is developed through continual assessment of the quality of information from multiple perspectives including, but not limited to the humanistic arts and sciences and the biological arts and sciences. Critical thinking employs multiple lenses and perspectives to understanding and interpreting a situation that provides a background for bringing creative and innovative approaches to the health care environment.

Clinical reasoning and critical thinking are developed through evidence based practice. Evidence based practice embodies the application of existing knowledge and the generation of new knowledge. This implies the use of informatics to gather information, and critical thinking skills to apply the information at the appropriate time. It further promotes the generation of new knowledge through research to answer questions that affect professional practice.

The provision of nursing to a global community encompasses patient centered care of diverse individuals, families, groups, communities through the recognition and respect of patient differences, values and preferences. Health needs of the underserved members of the local community are considered in relation to their connection to larger populations. Care to the global community includes demonstration of cultural sensitivity in the identification and formulation of strategies for improved access and use of healthcare services and the sustainability of these strategies.

Vital to providing care to the global community is a nurses' ability to utilize healthcare informatics. Health care informatics encompasses knowledge, skills, and application of technological advances that are used to optimize delivery of quality patient care. This incorporates both information systems/technology and patient care technology. Graduates from the program will acquire technological skills accessing, utilizing, and evaluating information systems that support and guide safe nursing practice.

Nursing education is viewed as a collaborative process where learners are engaged in classroom, clinical, and external learning environments. Faculty acts as the facilitator to promote and support professional development and student-directed, lifelong learning. The student centered atmosphere empowers students to grow personally and professionally beyond their initial expectations. The transformation that occurs allows the graduate to impact the nursing profession and society.