

SHSU Department of Nursing Philosophy

The philosophy of the Department of Nursing is consistent with the mission and goals of Sam Houston State University. The concepts of persons, nursing, environment, health and learning are addressed in this philosophy.

Every person has inherent dignity and worth. As such each is deserving of compassionate and competent healthcare based on sound evidence. Mankind has the capacity to communicate effectively, to work cooperatively, and to organize effective systems so that an individual's biological, psychosocial and spiritual needs, as well as society's needs are met.

Accessible, quality healthcare is necessary for individual functioning and the continuation of the global community. The rapid rate of change and enhanced transmission of information within the world necessitates confidence with management of technology. Nursing seeks to consistently process information accurately and wisely in a timely fashion and to protect confidential data.

Nursing occurs in variable environments that are defined by the patient/nurse/family in each situation. Physical, interpersonal, emotional, spiritual, political, cultural, economic, and other factors influence the environment of care. Nurses seek to create a caring/healing environment for their patients in the context of each nurse-patient encounter.

Health is more than the absence of disease or disability. Healthy lifestyle, risk reduction, genetics, and other factors influence the health of individuals as well as communities. It is possible for persons to consider themselves in good health even while coping with chronic and terminal illnesses and or disabilities when they factor in their capacity to adapt and respond and live fully with their own challenges.

Quality, holistic nursing care draws from both the arts and the sciences. Effective nursing care is based upon scientific principles that incorporate humanistic elements such as caring, effective communication, spirituality, and cultural and psychosocial sensitivity. Nurses must be accountable and knowledgeable about the profession and their specialty. In this age of change and instantaneous dissemination of information, nurses must be able to rapidly process and assimilate new knowledge and demonstrate new skills as they strive to anticipate and address the needs of the population – a population that includes an increasing older adult cohort.

The science of nursing is in a constant state of evolution therefore nurses must demonstrate the capacity to critically think and problem solve while maintaining personal growth through life-long learning. Learning is a life-long process that is unique for each person. Learning is continuous and occurs in progressively more complex degrees. The process of learning provides a foundation that is necessary to develop skills, attitudes, behaviors and ways of thinking. The teacher's role is that of facilitator in a supportive environment. The student's role is to consistently and actively engage in learning activities to become an accountable professional and life-long learner.