

Philosophy

Several concepts are essential to the curriculum of the nursing program. The concepts of individual, family, and community health; education; nursing process; diversity; professional leadership and communication; ethics; and research-based practice are foundations of nursing higher education at McKendree University.

The nursing faculty members embrace education as a life-long pursuit. The faculty members are responsible for creating an environment conducive to mutual respect, student participation, utilization of critical thinking, and self-awareness that enables continued development at McKendree University. Life-long learning enables individual nurses to experience personal and professional growth and development.

Health is seen as a continuum with a fluctuating state of wellness/illness. The profession of nursing utilizes science, theory, and research in the development and implementation of nursing interventions in assisting clients to obtain their optimal level of functioning through health promotion and disease prevention; health education; and disease management. The interaction between clients and nurses is the foundation of the profession of nursing.

Nursing care is conceptualized as an ongoing process. Evidence-based practice is the cornerstone of higher education in nursing. The nursing process is the means by which nurses promote health, provide health education, perform ethically, and provide care to diverse groups of individuals. Health education and health promotion encourages self-responsibility resulting in healthy lifestyle behaviors, enhanced wellness, disease and injury prevention, and decreased disability among individuals, families, and communities.

Students are prepared to provide culturally competent care to individuals, families, and communities. The nursing program seeks to foster an appreciation of diversity. This includes understanding similarities and differences in the ways cultural, racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, religious, lifestyle, age, and gender variations.

Leadership knowledge and skills are requisite for quality improvement, patient safety, and high quality patient healthcare. Effective written and oral communication skills are perfected through inter-professional interactions. Professional roles and leadership skills are developed throughout the program.

Ethical norms and values are essential to professional nursing practice. Self-analysis is a necessary component of ethical development. The Professional Codes of Ethics and Standards of Care are emphasized in the students' application of ethical decision making.