Mission, Program Goals and Philosophy of Department of Nursing

Mission

The primary mission of the Department of Nursing is the immersion of students into a Christocentric nursing environment which fosters the harmonious development of human beings, while instilling the essence of Christian caring in the nursing role with a focus on service through practice, research, and global leadership.

Nursing Program Goals

The Department of Nursing aims to achieve its mission by endeavoring to:

1. Contribute to the health care and education of nurses through a Christ-centered and moral-leadership values program
2. Enhance nursing program excellence
3. Create innovative, accessible models of nursing education to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student body
4. Provide service to the local and global community
5. Support faculty professional development, scholarship, and grant productivity
6. Promote collegial spirit and well-being in a healthy work environment

Philosophy of Department of Nursing

The Edyth T. James Department of Nursing upholds the mission statement of Washington Adventist University, a learning community committed to the Seventh-day Adventist Christian vision of excellence and service. The nursing faculty provides learning opportunities within a Christian environment that fosters the harmonious development of human beings. Human beings were created perfect in the image of God with the power to think, feel, and act. Through God’s plan of salvation, human beings can have eternal life. While human beings no longer live in a perfect state, God’s relationship with them continues to give them dignity, choice, and rights that can be responsibly directed toward experiencing maximum health through creative human need fulfillment.

Human beings are bio-psychosocial and spiritual in nature with similar needs and different modes of adaptation. Throughout life, as unique holistic systems, human beings adapt and develop through the interchange of energy with the environment and the utilization of resources in society. Society and human beings are changing, interacting systems with spiritual, physical, mental, behavioral, developmental, cultural, social, educational, political, economic, and environmental conditions that affect the survival and health of its members.

The nature of being human is to be caring. Society seeks caring from the nursing community. Caring nurses reflect on their own beliefs, attitudes, and values as they provide holistic care and respond to issues that impact professional practice, such as vulnerable populations, unethical practices, and diversity in a multicultural healthcare environment.

Health reflects the dynamic interplay of human needs, potential alterations, and actual alterations in human need fulfillment. Health can be conceptualized as being on an illness-wellness continuum. Wellness involves an
individual’s goal-directed adaptation, growth, development, and realization of human need fulfillment within a changing multicultural society. Impaired health presents the individual with an opportunity for adaptation, growth, and the ongoing pursuit of optimum health potential through human need fulfillment. The subjective experience of the individual influences the person’s definition of health and one can move towards health and wellbeing through awareness, education, and growth.

The profession of nursing is a scholarly practice discipline. Through a variety of processes such as caring, spirituality, health promotion, leadership, research, evidence-based practice, the nursing process, facilitation of change, political advocacy, and life-long learning, nursing positively impacts the illness-wellness continuum. The responsibility of society’s health care is shared by nurses, other health professionals, and consumers. Nursing leadership is a communication and relationship process seeking to envision the needs, strengths and resources of human beings while influencing the individual, family, group, community, and population in the purposeful attainment of mutually defined health goals. Through the use of best research evidence, logical reflective reasoning, clinical judgment, and consideration of patient values, the professional nurse provides an evidence-based, health-oriented service to society.

The professional nurse facilitates change within systems through the roles of provider, designer, manager, coordinator, educator, advocate, and counselor. As advocates for quality health care, nurses are active in the political processes that affect the healthcare delivery system. The professional nurse is committed to lifelong learning and the continued development of self-awareness, responsibility, and accountability.

Model of Washington Adventist University Nursing Program Philosophy