

The Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences
Nursing Program
Philosophy

The nursing faculty believes that:

Nursing is an art and science that involves caring for the individual- body, mind and spirit. Nursing utilizes scientific, technical and behavioral knowledge to assist individuals, sick or well, to perform activities contributing to health promotion, health maintenance, health restoration or a peaceful and dignified death. The Nursing Process is used to diagnose and treat health and illness throughout the life span. Nursing collaborates with the transdisciplinary health care team to meet the needs of the individual and significant others.

Health is a dynamic state of physical, mental, spiritual and social functioning of an individual. Health is viewed on a continuum, which can range from a high level of wellness to death. Health involves the individual's ability to adapt to the ever-changing environment utilizing knowledge; energy and self-care skills to develop and to maintain maximum well being based on the individual's perceptions and values.

Man, the central focus of nursing, is a holistic being with physical, emotional, psychological, intellectual, social and spiritual needs. As a dynamic being, man interacts with the internal and external environment throughout the life span, developing self-potential and maintaining homeostasis through the use of adaptive mechanisms. Man assumes a variety of roles within the context of the family, groups and community. Having intrinsic values, rights and responsibilities, man deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.

Education is an active lifelong process of developing intellect and character and acquiring knowledge and skills in structured and unstructured settings. The educational process progresses from simple to complex and from normal to abnormal concepts.

Student learning is a dynamic process achieved through a planned course of study that results in changes in perception, attitudes and behavior. Student learning is promoted by innovative teaching methods in an open, positive, flexible and supportive learning environment. Learning requires the active participation of both the student and the instructor. The student utilizes behaviors from the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains to achieve identified learning outcomes. The instructor acts as a facilitator and role model when providing guidance and direction to the student in a variety of settings and enhances the student's self esteem by providing challenging educational experiences, constructive feedback and positive reinforcement.

The Program's responsibility is to admit individuals who have potential to become competent nurses. The Program has the responsibility to assist students to develop their potential by providing a relevant curriculum under the guidance of an educationally prepared faculty. The school provides opportunities for student participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the program and encourages personal growth through advisement, recreational programs and self-governance.

The Program's responsibility to the community is to prepare competent and accountable professional nurses capable of providing compassionate, high quality, cost effective nursing care. The Program fosters the understanding of the importance of a lifelong commitment to continuing education and the professional code of ethics. The Program prepares nurses who function as advocates for the individual, family and community and who are aware of and respond to social-political issues affecting health care and the community's health needs.