

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING
STUDENT POLICIES

ADN PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The ADN program philosophy incorporates the faculty beliefs regarding nursing, health, person, lifespan, community, nursing education, the teaching/learning process, and nursing practice.

Nursing is the dynamic interpersonal goal-directed process that seeks to promote optimal health within the context of individuals, family, community, and society. The concept of caring, which is central to nursing, is communicated through both attitude and action. Nursing uses the nursing process, a problem-solving approach to provide holistic care to individuals, families, and groups throughout the lifespan within the health care system. Nurses assess health and make clinical decisions to provide safe and effective nursing care according to standards of practice within the legal, ethical, and regulatory frameworks. Nursing practice is based on its own body of knowledge. Through collaboration with other health care professionals, nursing is responsive to the needs of the community across the health-illness continuum.

Health is a dynamic state of being, evaluated on a continuum, including physical, psychological, cultural, and spiritual elements. While each element can be evaluated separately, the impact of all elements must be fused to describe health. The person is a complex living being, in which physical, psychological, cultural, and spiritual processes are in constant interaction. This constant interaction provides the person with the capacity for change. Each person is unique; however, all individuals share similar human responses.

The person has inherent worth and dignity and is the focus of nursing practice. Each individual has a right to self-determination in matters of health and well-being and deserves high quality nursing care.

Lifespan is a period from conception to death and is a continuous, dynamic process during which clients experience maturational and situational milestones. Interrelated physical, psychological, cultural, spiritual, social, and environmental elements impact the length and quality of life.

Community is comprised of the social, emotional, physical, cultural, and environmental influences that affect individuals, families, and groups. The nurse manages care in the context of community, and influences health care policy and systems.

Nursing education is the process that enables learners to achieve knowledge and skills appropriate to their level of nursing practice. Seamless nursing education, integrating general education, takes place in institutions of higher learning. Using performance-based instruction, faculty members assist learners in acquiring knowledge, skills, and values required for the discipline of nursing. Individuals are responsible for their own learning. Faculty and learners create an environment that stimulates curiosity, creativity, and growth while fostering feelings of respect, worth, and dignity. Nursing education seeks to promote critical thinking, communication, problem solving, cultural diversity, quantification skills, and use of information and science technology.

Learning is a continuous, goal-directed process that results in measurable change. Learning occurs best when individuals are active participants in the teaching/learning process. Faculty and learners share accountability for assessment and evaluation of learning. Learning increases when application and practice occur in various settings. Ongoing evaluation, based on measurable behavioral outcomes, is an essential and dynamic part of the teaching/learning process. Evaluation of learner and graduate performance facilitates continuous improvement of the seamless, statewide nursing curriculum.