

Mount Vernon Nazarene University
School of Nursing and Health Sciences
Nursing Department

Conceptual Framework

Service and obedience to God are central to the practice of Christian nursing; therefore our faith in God serves as the underpinning for the nursing program. The Nursing Department's conceptual framework is based on a biblical worldview of nursing and is organized around seven concepts and four sub-concepts that guide professional nursing practice from a Christian viewpoint. The seven concepts (God, truth, persons, environment, health, nursing, and spiritual care) are based on the Christian nursing framework developed by Shelly and Miller (1999). The biblical worldview delineates the concepts of concern for nursing. In addition, sub-concepts of Godly living, evidence-based nursing, comfort care, and communication are included to emphasize to students the importance of these concepts in nursing practice.

The conceptual framework is designed with all concepts being under the umbrella of God. Christian nurses, through the power of the Holy Spirit, are given the ability to meet the health care needs of the community through the ministry of nursing. The concepts of truth and spiritual care are derived from the Christian nurses' relationship to God. We know who God is through the truth of the Holy Scripture, and rely on that truth for direction for nursing care of clients, and personal spiritual growth. The concepts of concern for nurses (person, health, environment and nursing) constitute the remainder of the major ideas in the framework. This framework assists students in identifying patterns of potential and actual health problems of concern to nursing. The sub-concepts of Godly living, evidence-based nursing, comfort care, and communication are viewed as attributes essential to Christian nursing practice. These attributes are dynamic and serve to further define the practice of nursing.