

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

Philosophy

Mount Vernon Nazarene University is an intentionally Christian, liberal arts university within the Wesleyan evangelical tradition. The university is committed to academic excellence inspiring students to achieve their highest potential spiritually, intellectually, socially, and physically as they prepare for careers and meaningful service to God and humankind. The faculty of the Nursing Department supports the philosophy of Mount Vernon Nazarene University. We believe in a holistic approach to faith and learning. Our Christian faith serves as the underpinning for the program and directs our vision, mission and practices. The philosophy of the Nursing Department is guided by a belief in a sovereign God.

Nursing knowledge is acquired through empirical testing, personal, ethical and aesthetic knowing. All truth, both objective science and subjective experiential truth ultimately comes from God. The faculty believe students must participate in the pursuit of knowledge and are responsible for actively engaging in the educational process. While nurses have a specialized body of knowledge, knowledge from behavioral and natural sciences and the humanities are integrated with nursing science to determine best nursing practice. Knowledge acquisition is a lifelong process and must be continuously pursued for safe quality nursing practice to occur.

The principal concern of nursing is advocating for the health care needs of persons and communities. Advocacy can take place through providing direct care for clients, coordinating care among members of the interdisciplinary health care team, advocating for equality in resource allocation, and by political activism aimed at improving health care delivery and access for all. Nurses must also participate in the development and encouragement of future nurses to ensure that high quality professional nursing standards are maintained. Within the context of promoting, restoring and maintaining health, the Christian nurse is responsible for being a steward of the environment. Environmental stewardship, health care advocacy and nursing care should be guided by evidence and must be communicated appropriately to ensure health care goals are met. Spiritual care is primary to the health of individuals and society. The nurse must foster personal spiritual growth to guide efficiently clients in spiritual wholeness. Christian nurses receive power from the Holy Spirit to achieve the goals of Christian nursing practice. Godly living is essential to ongoing spiritual growth.

The Nursing Department believes Christian nursing practice is an intentional act requiring spiritual discipline and a desire to minister to others as a response to God's grace. The faculty members assist students in growing in Christ by role-modeling godly living and Christian values in the practice of nursing. Through Christian nursing education students receive an invitation to enter into Christian nursing practice which can culminate in a fulfilling, professional nursing career.