

Philosophy of the ISU School of Nursing

Nursing faculty endorse the mission and values of Indiana State University (ISU), the College of Health and Human Services, and the missions within each of the nursing departments in the ISU School of Nursing (SON). This philosophy articulates faculty beliefs about nursing practice, nursing education, continuous quality improvement, and also serves as a guide for all functions within the scope of nursing education at ISU. The philosophical beliefs of the SON faculty result in the development and advancement of competent, caring nurse professionals and productive citizens.

Nursing¹ is viewed as a professional practice discipline based in translational nursing science, a body of nursing knowledge derived from research and scholarly inquiry across relevant scientific and healthcare disciplines. Nurses implement evidence-based practice from a holistic, caring framework in a multicultural, complex environment to provide safe, high quality care. The concepts of health promotion and wellness, cultural competence, risk reduction, self-care management, and palliative care are emphasized across the lifespan within the nurse-patient relationship. Nurses provide care to patients, families, groups, and communities with an emphasis on healthcare delivery that includes rural and underserved populations. To this end, nurses embrace technology and informatics to increase care and efficiency. Nurses also participate as collaborative members of the interprofessional team and demonstrate professional ethical behaviors. Leadership in nursing² is an expectation to be demonstrated in a variety of venues, including clinical, educational, administrative, and sociopolitical arenas.

¹ The profession is guided by the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice and also reflects mandates and nursing care standards from significant nursing and health education organizations such as the National League for Nursing, American Nurses Association, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Indiana State Board of Nursing, and the Pew Health Professions Commission.

²Institute of Medicine (2010). *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. National Academies of Science: Bethesda, MD.

Faculty promote excellence in nursing practice via education ranging from baccalaureate to clinical doctoral education and through professional continuing nursing education. All levels of nursing education are provided by supportive faculty who are experts in teaching, promote scholarship, and who provide service to the University, the surrounding communities, and the profession of nursing. Program outcomes are achieved through active, student-centered learning in an environment that values mutual respect, diversity, inclusivity, experiential learning, community engagement, and a wide range of teaching methods. Nursing education is accomplished through on-campus classes, clinical experiences, and technology-based modalities. Nursing faculty maintain academic integrity and high standards that promote student accountability, professional, and personal growth.

Nursing faculty, in their pursuit of program excellence, are dedicated to systematic assessment through data collection and analysis for the purposes of continuous quality improvement. The dimensions by which programs are evaluated include students, faculty, administrators, community stakeholders, teaching/evaluation methods, resources, and curricula. The evaluation of these dimensions allows for opportunities to improve student learning, enhance educational outcomes, and celebrate successes across departments in the ISU SON.