

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING

VENTURA COLLEGE

The conceptual framework of the Ventura College Associate Degree Nursing Program is derived from statements in the program philosophy relating to nursing, the individual, the environment and health. It integrates Orem's Self-Care Theory, the nursing process and the three main roles of the associate degree nurse as provider, manager and member within the profession. The philosophy and organizing framework provide guidance in the establishment of educational outcomes, course objectives, the sequencing of course content and the program in general. The attached diagram illustrates the framework.

Primary components of Orem's Self-Care Theory are: (1) individual capacity and responsibility for self-care, (2) universal needs, (3) developmental needs, (4) health deviation self-care requisites and (5) basic conditioning factors.

Self-Care Theory includes five premises: (1) self-care is a learned activity that is natural to adults; (2) individualization of care will promote client involvement in care; (3) the evaluation phase of the nursing process and individualized care will give the client feedback as to progress; (4) individualized care can be delivered in the client's home or a variety of settings; and (5) by thoroughly assessing the client, the client's care can be customized to his individual situation.

The individual has capacity for self-care. Self-care is the practice of activities that individuals personally initiate and perform on their own behalf in maintaining life, health and well-being. Self-care is an adult's personal, continuous contribution to his own health and well-being. When an individual is unable to meet therapeutic self-care demands, a self-care deficit results. This self-care deficit can result from a developmental need to a need for total care (illness, injury, disability). The identification of nursing diagnoses by the nurse results from assessment of universal, developmental and self-care requisites. The extent of nursing care (nursing agency) required is determined by the capability of the patient and/or family to provide self-care. Nursing utilizes the nurse to balance the inequality between self-care demand and self-care agency.

Nursing is the "giving of direct assistance to a person, as required, because of a person's specific inabilities in self-care, resulting from a situation of personal health." (Orem, 1986) As persons or families are able to direct their own self-care, their requirements for nursing are modified and eventually eliminated.

Nursing process is a deliberate activity utilized to organize nursing care within which the nurse (agent) assumes the role of provider of care, manager of care and member within the profession to empower the client toward self-care. The components include assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation.

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