Philosophy of the School of Nursing

The School of Nursing is committed to providing patient-centered care that focuses on a commitment to quality and safety while upholding Christian values. We foster excellence in both scholarship and service to the Lipscomb community, our surrounding community, and throughout the world while focusing on the holistic needs of individuals and groups of individuals.

The curriculum contains both liberal arts and professional courses. The central concepts of our profession are person, environment, health and nursing. These four concepts interact and serve as the basis for the practice of nursing.

Each person is a unique, complex being created by God. Humans are interactive beings that function within larger social systems and are capable of adapting to their environment. Each patient should be viewed holistically and have all basic human needs met.

The environment consists of all conditions, circumstances, and influences that exist outside one’s social system’s boundary. An intimate relationship exists between the constantly changing environment and the person. The environment in which we live determines, to a degree, lifestyle and state of health. Development of the individual occurs throughout life within a pluralistic and culturally diverse society.

Health is a dynamic state of being in which the developmental and behavioral potential of an individual is realized to the fullest extent possible. Individuals have the right to pursue that level of health perceived by them to be optimal, taking into account their social, spiritual, and cultural health. The level of health that individuals can attain is directly influenced by the health of their families and communities of which they are a part.

Nursing is a professional discipline that seeks to work collaboratively with members of the health care team to provide health promotion, promote healing from illness or injury, and comfort those dealing with end of life issues.

The discipline of nursing encompasses science, ethics, politics, and the heritage of nursing. The central focus of the discipline is the response to patient needs in a variety of settings. The practice of nursing is an art and a science used to help individuals improve their health potential.

The profession of nursing builds on a liberal arts education including psychology, religion, biological and natural sciences. The synthesis of knowledge from these disciplines, as well as from nursing, will enhance the ability of nurses to understand self, relationships with others, the nature of communities, diversity, the physical world, current health trends, and human needs and values.
The study of diverse disciplines contributes to the ability to think analytically, reason logically, and communicate effectively. Students are expected to continue to mature intellectually and spiritually, using their liberal arts education to deepen their understanding of nursing and health. University-wide interprofessional activities are actively sought for the intellectual exchange and stimulation they provide.

The program leading to the BSN at Lipscomb University constitutes an arena for excellence in nursing practice, as well as a forum for discussion and analysis of issues that affect health care, patients, the nursing profession, and society. The program is based on a variety of cognitive styles, life experiences, and professional backgrounds.