Beliefs about Nursing

Nursing is a dynamic and evolving profession founded on the arts and sciences. Its focus is the patient who may be an individual, family, group or community. As an art, nurses provide caring and compassion for others to ensure patient-centered care. As a science, nurses implement this care based on current evidence derived from experience and research; nurses use science to inform their clinical judgment.

Nursing is a collaborative endeavor, which involves an interpersonal partnership with patients, their support system, and other healthcare providers to help the patient achieve optimal health outcomes. Collaboration requires effective communication, using informatics and technology, to facilitate improved patient care.

Nursing practice encompasses a broad spectrum of roles and competencies, in a variety of settings when caring for patients across the lifespan. All levels of nursing are responsible and accountable to the healthcare consumer for safe, quality nursing practice.

Professional practice involves adhering to the nursing scope of practice, code of ethics, and regulatory and legal guidelines. Nurses are leaders and managers who coordinate care to improve and change clinical practices.

Beliefs about Teaching and Learning

Adults need to be involved in the planning and evaluation of their own instruction. Experience (including mistakes) provides the basis for learning activities. Adults are most interested in learning about subjects that have immediate application to their job or personal life. Adult learning is problem-centered rather than content-oriented. Adults are motivated to learn by internal factors rather than external factors. They want to take initiative and responsibility for their own learning (Knowles, 1984).

Adults learn best if encouraged to construct their own understanding and knowledge through observation, experimentation and reflection. A well-planned learning environment helps students learn how to learn. Broad concepts are introduced and applied to a variety of exemplars (Constructivism). (Piaget, Dewey)

The faculty working with adults facilitate learning by designing learning activities that are experiential and reality based. Bringing realistic scenarios into the learning environment allows immediate application of clinical judgment to solve reality based problems using evidence of best practice. Deep learning in nursing involves developing a clinical imagination and a patient-centered focus of care (Benner, 2013).