

The **seven critical nursing practice concepts** are*:

Caring: Caring is an involved way of being that compels one to invest the self in acting with, for and/or on behalf of the one(s) needing care. This may involve overcoming prior biases and beliefs to be present to the person/situation. Caring may be focused towards an individual, group, or standard. Caring is nonjudgmental, intuitive, honest, empathic, committed (persistent) and other-focused.

Community: A community is a group of people characterized by some type of bond, interaction and collective activity regarding common concerns and possibilities.

Ethics: Ethics refers to traditions of belief about right and wrong, good and bad conduct, personal and professional, and institutions.

Health Promotion: Health promotion consists of the development of lifestyle habits which healthy individuals and communities can adapt to maintain and enhance a state of well being.

Holism: Holism is that state of harmony between body, mind, emotions, and spirit in an ever-changing environment. Holism embodies the view that an individual is an integrated whole, independent of the sum of the parts.

Human Diversity: Human diversity refers to variations among individuals, groups, and communities in multiple dimensions, such as culture, race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability and social or economic status.

Stewardship: Stewardship is holding in trust for future generations those aspects of nursing valued by the profession. Stewardship is acting with integrity in an accountable and responsible way to ensure that professional care and service is provided to individuals, groups or a given population. It includes, but is not limited to, professionalism, ethics, leadership, management, health care policy and health care finance.

* See Nursing Student Handbook for references

Students participate in an inquiry-based curriculum using these **active learning strategies**:

Communication: Communication is a dynamic, interactive, goal-directed process for giving and receiving messages. It forms the basis for development of interpersonal relationships and for group process. It involves the transfer of information through listening, verbal and nonverbal behavior, writing and using information technology.

Praxis: Praxis refers to a relationship between theory and practice in which students create/construct knowledge and meaning from their experiences. Within a praxis framework, students assess, understand (through reflection and discussion) and make good judgments about situations that lead to justifiable actions by:

- perceiving situations within their larger contexts;
- making generalizations from their experiences; and
- taking action as a responsible professional to modify/develop all levels of practice.

Thinking & Knowing Skills: As a means of inquiry, thinking/knowing skills include, but are not limited to: reflection, creativity, problem-solving from assessment through evaluation, decision-making, pattern recognition, intuition, clinical judgment and critical thinking. Also includes information management.

Community of Learning: A community of learning recognizes that knowledge is a social product and learning is best achieved within a community of individuals mutually supporting each other in the pursuit of knowledge, good judgment and good practice. It implies a willingness to engage with colleagues for the sake of learning through mutual respect and an expectation of reasonableness.