

MiraCosta College
Nursing and Allied Health
Philosophy Statement

The philosophy statement of the Nursing Programs of MiraCosta Community College represents a consensus of nursing faculty beliefs. It incorporates beliefs relative to: 1) nursing; its practice and instruction, 2) people and the patients/clients that the graduates will serve, 3) health, and 4) students engaged in acquiring the skills and knowledge inherent in its practice.

The nurse is a critical member of the healthcare team. Nursing practice and nursing education will continue to evolve over time to meet the changing healthcare needs of society. Nursing care is delivered by varying levels of practitioners with corresponding educational preparation, certificates, and licenses, each with regulated scopes of practice. The varying levels of preparation serve as entry points into a career path and access to a nursing career ladder.

The discipline of Nursing is an art and a science which is practiced in a wide variety of settings. The Licensed Vocational Nurse provides care to clients/patients under the direction of a registered nurse or physician. As a member of the health care team the LVN utilizes scientific and technical expertise and manual skills. The realm of the Registered Nurse includes health promotion as well as the diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual and potential health problems (ANA, 1980). The human responses are regarded as a disruption of biopsychosocial-spiritual integrity.

The nurse uses the Nursing Process to assist the client/patient to achieve optimum physiological, psychosocial, and spiritual integrity/balance through assessment and management of unmet needs. Effective use of the Nursing Process requires the application of knowledge and utilization of skills and experience in a caring and ethical manner.

People are complex biological, psychosocial, and spiritual beings that share common hierarchical human needs which, when optimally met, contribute to an overall balance or integrity. The individual is a unique reflection of reciprocal interaction with environment, family, community, and society.

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CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework reflects the philosophy of the MCC nursing programs and forms the foundation for the curriculum design. The framework schematic illustrates that a person continuously interacts on a reciprocal basis with society, family, community and the environment. Individual integrity stems from satisfaction of human needs.

In the healthcare setting the nurse assists the individual to meet human needs. The nursing process forms the foundation for nursing practice which integrates and utilizes knowledge, skills with the qualities of ethics and caring.

Conceptual Framework Schematic

Definition of terms:

Bio-PschoSocial-Spiritual Integrity –

Skills – proficiency and facility acquired and developed through preparation and experience.

Caring – watching over, attending to, feeling and exhibiting concern and empathy for others. It is a force for protecting and enhancing patient integrity.

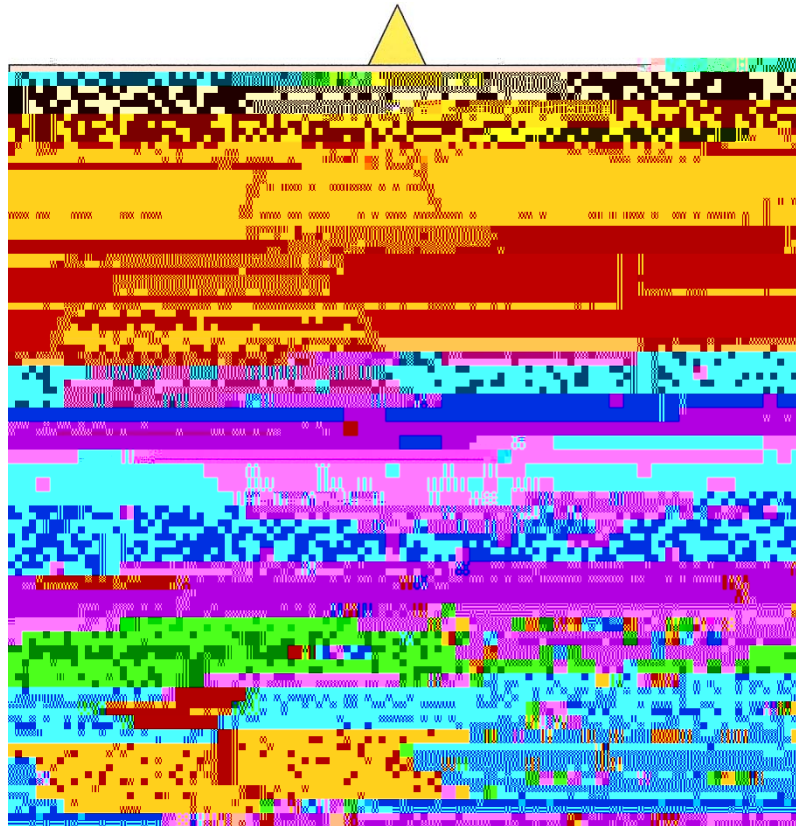
Environment – includes all internal and external conditions, circumstances and influences that interact and affect patient integrity.

Society– a group of humans broadly distinguished from other groups by mutual interests, participation in characteristic relationships, shared institutions, and a common culture.

Family – two or more people who share goals and values and have long-term commitments to one another.

Community – an interdependent group of individuals and families inhabiting the same region and interacting with each other.

Hierarchy of Human Needs



- Level 1 – Physiologic Needs – Survival are the basic physical needs. These needs must be at least minimally for life to continue.
- Level 2 – Physiologic Needs – Stimulation are biologic needs with a significant impact on the quality of life but are not essential for continued existence.
- Level 3 – Safety and Security Needs present the necessity to feel safe and, as such, are both physiological and psychological. They include avoiding harm and physical safety as well as structure, security, and a sense of order.
- Level 4 – Love and Belonging Needs are social needs. They reflect the necessity for love and a sense of belonging or closeness. They include a person's ability to maintain affectionate relationships, companionship, and to affiliate or interact with others through involvement with and within various groups.
- Level 5 – Self-Esteem Needs include needs which are related to perceptions of individual adequacy. These perceptions of spirituality, worth, competence, adequacy, and achievement come both from external and internal sources. They reflect beliefs and values about others, self, and a higher power.
- Level 6 – Self-Actualization Needs include the degree to which the individual is able to achieve potential and grow and improve. These needs are unique, based on individual talents, inclinations, and preferences.

Need Hierarch adapted by faculty from earlier foundational work by Abraham Maslow and Richard Kalisch.

6/2008