

**Lock Haven University
Department of Nursing
Associate of Science in Nursing**

Mission

The Associate Degree Nursing program supports the mission of the Lock Haven University (LHU). The Department of Nursing is committed to providing **excellent, accessible, affordable high quality** nursing education to meet the diverse and changing health care needs of the service area and to promoting the development of qualified students prepared for the **professional role** of the entry level nurse. The Department of Nursing values intellectual challenge, supportive learning environment, student success, ethical behavior and civility, civic responsibility, stewardship and service. Through **real-world experiences and close interactions with faculty**, students apply their knowledge from the **liberal arts and sciences** and nursing courses in a variety of clinical settings helping the student to gain **diverse experiences and perspectives**. The Department of Nursing encourages students to participate in a variety of **co-curriculum activities** to develop teamwork, leadership and interpersonal skills. Graduates of the program may be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN).

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Associate Degree Nursing program is a result of the faculty's beliefs about the human being/patient, environment, health, nursing, practice and education of the Associate Degree nurse.

Human beings/patients are recipients of nursing care services. Patients may be individuals, families, groups, communities, or populations. Patients may function in independent, interdependent, or dependent roles, and may see or receive nursing intervention related to disease prevention, health promotion, or health maintenance, as well as illness and end of life care. The faculty believes in a culture of holism and affirms the human person is an individual, who is complex, multidimensional, unique, and significant possessing inherent value and worth. All individuals have dynamic physiological, psychological, socio-cultural, spiritual and developmental needs that contribute to health, quality of life, and achievement of potential. Each individual has a right to access health care and information that will assist him/her to participate actively in his/her health care in order to achieve the highest level of wellness possible. All individuals should be cared for, respected, nurtured, and assisted within the context of their environment. Patient centeredness must be the focus of providing and managing nursing care.

Environment is the "surrounding context, milieu, conditions or atmosphere" in which an individual lives, works, or plays (ANA, 2010, p. 64). The individual interacts constantly with a changing environment that consists of both internal and external forces. These forces vary throughout the lifespan and have the potential to cause stress in the individual. The

organization's systems and the individual's characteristics influence how well the individual adapts to his/her environment. Considering **the environment**, the nurse can assist the individual to alter aspects of the environment and to utilize innate and learned coping mechanisms to adapt to these stressors.

Health is an ever-changing state of mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. It exists on a continuum from optimal wellness to illness and ends in death. The individual's needs for health care are determined by his/her position on the continuum. Each individual's health is based on his/her cultural perceptions and beliefs of health and illness and on the ability to adapt to internal and external environmental forces. To the extent of their capabilities, individuals are responsible for and capable of identifying, learning, and practicing health behaviors that can promote wellness, prevent illness, restore or maintain wellness, or achieve a dignified death.

Nursing is "the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations" (ANA, 2010, p. 10). Nursing is a profession that combines the science and art of integrating and assimilating **knowledge, skills and attitudes** to deliver **patient-centered, culturally competent and holistic care**. Knowledge and skills are derived from biological, sociological and behavioral sciences and information technology. These knowledge, skills and attitudes provide the foundation from which nursing judgment occurs. Nursing judgment enables the nurse to integrate the art of nursing with the scientific foundation for nursing practice utilizing the nursing process. Functioning autonomously and **through collaboration and teamwork, the nurse incorporates evidence-based practice and good communication skills** to assist individuals to reach their maximum health potential. The goals of safe and quality client outcomes, promotion of wellness, prevention of illness, restoring of health or assistance in achieving a dignified death are assured through this teamwork approach.

Practice-The graduate of the Associate Degree Nursing program at LHU is prepared to meet the educational competencies defined by the Nurses of the Future Core Competencies, QSEN, and the Nurse Practice Act of Pennsylvania (Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Nursing Initiative, 2016). The graduate incorporates concepts of **safety, quality improvement, leadership, professionalism, and informatics** into clinical practice to achieve client goals and outcomes and organizational outcomes. . Valuing diversity and **global health** the graduate helps to create a work culture directed at providing cultural sensitive care while meeting the health care needs of individuals throughout their lifespan.

Nursing education at the Associate Degree level is a process that develops professional behaviors, professional identity, and judgment necessary to function in the role of the entry-level nurse. The nursing curriculum is based on a balance of evidence-based nursing theory and practice, general education, and the sciences in an environment conducive to adult and collaborative learning. The Associate Degree Nursing program at LHU provides an education

that progresses from simple to complex, novice to self-directed (Benner, 1984), and addresses the changing health care needs of the individual, significant support person(s), and community. Through these educational experiences, with the utilization of **information technology, evidence-based practice, cost-effective strategies, and quality improvement measures**, students will have the opportunity to integrate critical thinking and nursing knowledge to develop **clinical judgment skills** to “generate the best possible evidence-based solutions in order to deliver safe client care” (Woo, n.d.).

Learning is a life-long, continuous process that results in a change of behavior and occurs when the individual is challenged and motivated to enhance excellence in **personal and professional development**. Teaching and learning are parts of an interactive process between teacher and learner. The responsibility of the faculty of LHU Associate Degree Nursing program is facilitate the student’s understanding and ability to meet the competencies for nursing practice through the design and evaluation of learning experiences. The nursing student is responsible and accountable for actively participating in learning experiences and for developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes and **professional behaviors** necessary to provide safe, quality, patient-centered nursing care.

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Benner, P. (1984). *From novice to expert: Excellence and power in clinical nursing practice*. Addison-Wesley.

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Nursing Initiative. (2016). *Massachusetts Nurse of the Future Nursing Core Competencies – RN (3rd ed.)*.
http://www.mass.edu/nahi/documents/NOFRNCompetencies_updated_March2016.pdf.

Woo, A. (n.d.). *A practical framework for measuring higher-order cognitive constructs: An application to measuring nursing clinical judgement*. NCSBN: National Council of State Board of Nursing. https://www.ncsbn.org/2016_SciSymp_AWoo.pdf.

QSEN competencies. (2020). QSEN Institute. <https://qsen.org/competencies/pre-licensure-ksas/>