

Daytona State College
School of Nursing
Curricular Framework
Conceptual Model

The Associate Degree Nursing program of Daytona State College curricular framework was developed by faculty and guided by the Daytona State College and School of Nursing philosophies. It is designed to outline the educational basis for the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

The Daytona State College Associate Degree Nursing program commits to advancing the nursing profession through teaching and service. The faculty believes that a sound nursing education is based on the central concepts of nursing which includes person, health and illness, environment and nursing.

The concepts of the curricular framework include the nursing process, cultural competence, communication, and human needs. These concepts are related in the curriculum in the following way. Human needs address the priority of the care which the nurse provides for the person through prevention and intervention throughout the lifespan from birth until death. Nursing process provides the scientific, evidence-based method through which the nurse organizes care. The nurse uses critical thinking skills to assess and analyze client problems and make judgments regarding client needs. Cultural competence unfolds as the professional nurse applies nursing process in a culturally sensitive manner and is aware of personal biases while being sensitive to the needs of the individual and family. Effective communication, in its many forms, is essential to identifying and meeting human needs, applying the nursing process, and providing culturally competent care.

Integrated concepts of the curricular framework include professional behaviors, nutritional influences, pharmacological influences, nursing informatics, critical thinking, and caring interventions. The six threads serve as broad categories under which a variety of content can be expressed.

Professional behaviors are a set of expected behaviors which describe the various functions of the nurse in relation to the client and others. Professional behaviors are the foundation of nursing practice and are essential in the practice of safe, holistic nursing care.

Nutritional influences address the requirements for nourishment by clients across the lifespan. Good nutrition is essential for a competent immune system and for healing.

Pharmacological influences are the responses of persons to drug and herbal remedies. A sound understanding of the principles of pharmacology enables the nurse to assess, plan, intervene and evaluate drug effects as they affect persons.

Nursing informatics is the application of technology and information systems in the profession of nursing. Nursing informatics promotes the generation, management,

clinical processing of data and communication of required data in the profession of nursing. Nurses must be proficient in nursing informatics to ensure patient safety and to incorporate evidence-based practice in providing patient care.

Critical thinking is a pattern of thinking based on knowledge, experience, and the abilities to conceptualize and analyze relationships. Critical thinking involves organizing information, picking out relevant information, relating, conceptualizing, and making judgments. The nurse uses the nursing process to apply critical thinking to clinical decision making and is essential for the organization of care.

Caring interventions are the integrative force that organizes and binds all the resources of the nurse. The nurse expresses caring through concern for the client's growth and well-being through integrated application of body, mind and spirit. Caring interventions maximize positive outcomes in the individual who is cared for.

This conceptual model is a visualization of the interrelationship of the philosophy and the organizing concepts. The form of the palm tree was chosen to illustrate the growth of the nurse within the health care system and as a symbol of Daytona Beach College. The blue background depicts the environment or internal conditions and external surroundings of the individual. The trunk, or foundation of the tree is symbolic of the person for whom care is provided within that environment. The person has basic needs that cause movement along the health illness continuum throughout the lifespan. The unfolding threads are depicted by the major fronds of the tree. The organizing, embedded threads are depicted as rays of the sun representing the correlation of concepts and experiences which are threaded across the curriculum. The smaller fronds at the top of the tree indicate the relationships of collaboration between the educator and the nursing student using Maslow's human needs theory and the nursing process.