

## **Philosophy of the Nursing Department Final Draft**

Consistent with the stated mission of Daemen College, the nursing philosophy embodies compassion, personal and professional commitment, and lifelong learning. The complexity of healthcare demands Registered Nurses (RNs) in different levels of practice with a variety of educational backgrounds as crucial members of the health care team. Baccalaureate education is viewed as the foundation for professional practice. Graduate education builds on baccalaureate education through the acquisition of advanced knowledge, skill, and technology proficiency that would facilitate complex decision making to prepare nurses for independent advanced practice in clinical, education, research, and leadership roles.

The faculty views professionalism as the consistent demonstration of core nursing values. Caring and compassion are essential to professional nursing practice. Professionalism involves accountability for ones self and nursing practice through the demonstration of professional standards of moral, ethical, and legal conduct. Nursing embodies continuous professional engagement to assure competent practice. Service to the community and the profession are essential components of professionalism.

Daemen seeks to build on the RNs existing knowledge to prepare nurses as leaders in the healthcare community. Leadership promotes ethical, critical decision-making as the nurse designs, coordinates, and manages patient care at all levels of practice. Nurse leaders are necessary to shape healthcare policy and to organize healthcare delivery systems that span the continuum from acute to community based care. Leadership involves the utilization of interpersonal skills to influence others to move toward achieving a vision or goal with emphasis on practice, improving health outcomes, and ensuring patient safety. The curriculum emphasizes leadership practice, improvement of health outcomes, and ensuring of patient safety.

Central to the nurse ability to provide care as a leader in a complex world is clinical reasoning. Clinical reasoning is developed through continual assessment of the quality of information from multiple perspectives including, but not limited to the humanistic arts and sciences and the biological arts and sciences. Critical thinking employs multiple lenses and perspectives to understanding and interpreting a situation that provides a background for bringing creative and innovative approaches to the health care environment.

Clinical reasoning and critical thinking are developed through evidence based practice. Evidence based practice embodies the application of existing knowledge and the generation of new knowledge. This implies the use of informatics to gather information, and critical thinking skills to apply the information at the appropriate time. It further promotes the generation of new knowledge through research to answer questions that affect professional practice.

