

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework is an organized set of ideas that guides the overall structure of the curriculum. The framework is based on the faculty members' philosophy of practical nursing education.

The major concepts for the practical nursing program at Daytona State College are safe and effective care environment, health promotion and maintenance, psychosocial integrity, and physiological integrity. The concepts were adopted from the NCLEX PN test plan (NCSBN, 2005) and also include human needs theory.

Human Needs Theory

Abraham Maslow's human needs theory provides the nurse with a framework for viewing individuals as holistic beings and for establishing priorities when assisting clients to meet their own needs. Human needs theory presents a hierarchy beginning with physiological needs and progressing to the ultimate goal of self-actualization. Satisfying these needs in a consistent manner is necessary for optimal wellness. The practical nurse assists the client to recognize and adapt to changing needs as they strive for a healthy lifestyle.

Safe and Effective Care Environment

The environment consists of the health care setting and the external and internal factors that influence the individual, family, and significant other. It includes physical, social, cultural, and other influences that may prevent the individual from meeting his or her basic needs. It is viewed as external to the person affecting health and well being.

Health Promotion and Maintenance

Health promotion concerns those activities directed towards maintaining or enhancing the health and well being of individuals and their families. The student learns the role of patient advocate as he or she provides information to facilitate decision making. The student learns and teaches health practices that promote and enhance optimum functional levels of wellness. Practices include but are not limited to nutrition, diet, exercise, and drug therapy. The nurse's unique position in relation to the individual and family facilitates healing.

Psychosocial Integrity

The nurse's unique position in relation to the individual and family facilitates the adjustment of clients and families adaptation of emotional, mental and social well being in response to changing health needs.

Physiological Integrity

Patient and family needs are prioritized according to Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Maslow's hierarchy provides a structure to formulate simple to complex concepts throughout the curriculum. The nurse assists the individual to maintain homeostasis in the face of illness, disease, and adaptation.