

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission Statement of LHUP, one of fourteen public universities of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, emphasizes that the university provides an affordable, comprehensive education that is dedicated to the positive development of a diverse student population. The university strives to meet the needs of the Commonwealth by challenging its students to exercise personal and civic responsibility and emphasizing multicultural experiences. This is accomplished through a liberal education, focused programs and continuous program development. The university provides a learning environment that values: excellence in teaching, a supportive culture of learning, truth, self-knowledge, shared governance, diversity, small classes, and individual and institutional freedom. University alumni are expected to be responsible, productive citizens and knowledgeable in their respective careers.

The philosophy of the nursing department reflects the attitude of the present faculty regarding their beliefs about the person, environment, health, nursing, and nursing education. It was reviewed and revised in accordance with the changes in the University Mission Statement. Changes were also made to reflect consistency with the contemporary beliefs of the profession and recent technological advances. For example, distance education, a recent technological advance, is an integral part of the LHUP and the nursing department. The Mission Statement of the University speaks to "responding to the societal and economic needs of the Commonwealth." The nursing department philosophy also addresses the importance of distance education "in overcoming access barriers by providing a unique educational experience."

Revisions to the nursing department philosophy were approved unanimously by Faculty Organization in January 2005. Table 1.1 illustrates congruence between the Mission Statement of the university and the philosophy of the nursing department.

## Comparison between Lock Haven University of PA Mission Statement and Nursing Department Philosophy

### LHU of PA Mission Statement

### Nursing Department Philosophy

1. "Learning community dedicated to positive development of students from diverse backgrounds"	1. "...an advanced placement option is offered to Licensed Practical Nurses...", "...distance education is offered at remote sites enabling these individuals to overcome access barriers...", "persons have basic human needs but may differ in culture, values, health practices and spirituality"
2. "Prepare students for productive careers, especially through focused programs"	2. "Nursing education is the process in which the learner develops a knowledge base for nursing practice," "It provides the skills and the theoretical background necessary to ensure graduate nurses who are capable of delivering quality nursing care to individuals and families in a variety of settings within the community"
3. "Respond to the societal and economic needs of the Commonwealth through continuous program development"	3. "...an advanced placement option is offered to Licensed Practical Nurses...", "...distance education is offered at remote sites enabling these individuals to overcome access barriers...", "nursing care is delivered...and in response to societal health needs"
4. "Alumni who are responsible and productive citizens"	4. "The associate degree graduate will practice in diverse settings..."
5. "Alumni who are knowledgeable and skilled at levels that satisfy their respective social and economic aspirations"	5. "Associate degree education is a means of preparation of these roles (provider of care, manager of care and member within the discipline of nursing) and provides experience for the nursing student at the entry level"
6. "The intellectual, moral and social virtues of people from diverse backgrounds and persuasions"	6. "Persons have basic human needs but may differ in culture, values, health practices and spirituality"
7. "Excellent teaching that effects deep learning"	7. "This base (nursing education) includes knowledge and skills from nursing science as well as the humanities and the natural, behavioral and social sciences"
8. "A culture of learning that is both caring and challenging, supportive and rigorous"	8. "Faculty provides an environment conducive for integration of concepts from these disciplines (nursing science, humanities and the natural, behavioral and social sciences" to the practice of nursing in a variety of supervised clinical settings"
9. "Provide students with an effective liberal education to increase their skills and knowledge"	9. "This base (nursing education) includes knowledge and skills from nursing science as well as the humanities and the natural, behavioral and social sciences"
<b>LHU of PA Mission Statement</b>	<b>Nursing Department Philosophy</b>
10. "An affordable, comprehensive educational	10. "The LHUP Associate of Science in Nursing Program provides an affordable, comprehensive education to

institution of modest size with an international dimension”	students from diverse backgrounds;” “It provides the skills and the theoretical background...”
11. “Truth expressed with civility”	11. “...nursing care is delivered in accordance with the legal and ethical standards of the nursing profession and in response to societal health needs”
12. “Individual and institutional self knowledge”	12. “Faculty views learning as a life-long process and subscribes to the belief of career mobility,” “The nursing program also provides a foundation for further study towards a baccalaureate degree in nursing”
13. “Knowledge and its production”	13. “Faculty views learning as a life-long process and subscribes to the belief of career mobility,” “The nursing program also provides a foundation for further study towards a baccalaureate degree in nursing”
14. “Freedom and the habit of acting responsibly as a free person”	14. “As a person evolves through their life cycle, they use their intellect and free will to make conscious choices regarding their health needs and health care”
15. “Challenge students to exercise personal and civic responsibility and to participate in public service”	15. “The nurse has the responsibility to assess the environment at the level impacting the person, manage its constraints and utilize its resources to promote the health of the person.,” “...health care is provided to assist individuals and families in meeting their basic needs in accordance with their capacity, goals and life style”

The nursing department educational objectives (terminal program objectives) are clearly stated in the Nursing Program Guide. They were reviewed in the fall of 2004 by the nursing department Curriculum Committee. The nursing department philosophy and objectives subscribe to the Standards of Practice of the American Nurses Association (American Nurses Association, Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice, 2004) and are believed to reflect the ethical and legal standards of the profession. Table 1.2 illustrates the relationship between the nursing department philosophy and the educational objectives.

In accordance with the Master Evaluation Plan, faculty review the philosophy and objectives of the nursing department and the mission statement and goals of the university every three years or when changes occur in the university mission statement. Faculty consider the congruence of the two philosophies at this time.

**Comparison between LHU of PA Nursing Department  
Philosophy and Educational Objectives**

<b>Philosophy</b>	<b>Educational Objectives</b>
<p>“Nursing Education is the process by which the learner develops a knowledge base for nursing practice... This base includes knowledge and skills from nursing science as well as the humanities and the natural, behavioral and social sciences,” “ensure graduate nurses who are capable of delivering quality nursing care to individuals and families in a variety of settings within the community.”</p>	<p>1. Integrate knowledge and principles from nursing and general education courses to facilitate care of individual/family in various health care settings within the community</p>
<p>“It (nursing) involves assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating the human needs of the individual in health and illness,” “Nursing applies to persons across the life span and within various cultures,” “Persons...are adaptive and continually interact with their environment as they strive to achieve maximum health potential”</p>	<p>2. Integrate the nursing process to assist individuals/families throughout the life cycle in reaching their optimal level of health</p>
<p>“Nursing is an art and science characterized by critical thinking, clinical competence, accountability, and commitment to the value of caring, and interdisciplinary collaboration,” “...graduate nurses who are capable of delivering quality nursing care to individuals and families...,” “Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs is the conceptual framework that provides continuity and language for the program”</p>	<p>3. Provide comprehensive, quality nursing care to individuals/families during alterations in their human needs.</p>
<b>Philosophy</b>	<b>Educational Objectives</b>
<p>“It (nursing) is based upon interpersonal communications among the individual, the family and the nurse”</p>	<p>4. Incorporate therapeutic communication skills in providing continuity of care to individuals and families in selected health care setting</p>
<p>“An important part of the nursing process includes health teaching by the nurse to assist individuals in the promotion and maintenance of health”</p>	<p>5. Refine health teaching appropriate to the human needs of individuals/families in order that they may achieve their maximum health potential</p>
<p>“...nursing care is delivered in accordance with the legal and ethical standards of the nursing profession...” “nursing involves...evaluating the human needs of</p>	<p>6. Evaluate nursing care according to the legal and ethical standards of the nursing profession</p>

the individual in health and illness.”	
“Nursing is an art and science characterized by critical thinking, clinical competence, accountability...”	7. Demonstrate responsibility and accountability while providing nursing care

The Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania Associate of Science in Nursing Program provides an affordable, comprehensive education to students from diverse backgrounds. It provides the skills and the theoretical background necessary to ensure graduate nurses who are capable of delivering quality nursing care to individuals and families in a variety of settings within the community. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is the conceptual framework that provides continuity and language for the program. The curriculum integrates three major threads throughout the program: mental health concepts, pharmacology and nutrition. Lifespan concepts are integrated throughout the curriculum.

The Nursing Program subscribes to the mission statement of Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and bases the curriculum on the following beliefs about the person, environment, health, nursing and nursing education.

**Person** – is viewed as an intelligent being that possesses traits and characteristics that make them unique beings with personal dignity and self-worth. Persons, as members of society, are adaptive and continually interact with their environment as they strive to achieve maximum health potential. As a person evolves through their life cycle, they use their intellect and free will to make conscious choices regarding their health needs and health care. Persons have basic human needs but may differ in culture, values, health practices and spirituality.

**Environment** – consists of physiological, psychosocial, cultural, philosophical, developmental and spiritual conditions and forces impacting the person's health. Environmental conditions and forces continually change and interact, forming a complex context for nursing practice. The nurse has the responsibility to assess the environment at the level impacting the person, manage its constraints and utilize its resources to promote the health of the person.

**Health** – is a dynamic state in which individuals adapt to alterations in their internal and external environment; so that there is a state of physical, emotional, socioeconomic, and spiritual well being. Health encompasses levels of wellness and illness; and nursing assists individuals when there is an alteration in their health status. The nursing faculty believes that individuals have inherent rights to receive the appropriate health care needed to achieve their optimal health potential. Within this context, health care is provided to assist individuals and families in meeting their basic needs in accordance with their capacity, goals and life style.

**Nursing** – is an art and science characterized by critical thinking, clinical competence, accountability, and commitment to the value of caring, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Nursing applies to persons across the life span and within various cultures. It is based upon interpersonal communications among the individual, the family, and the nurse. It involves assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating the human needs of the individual in health and illness. An important part of the nursing process includes health teaching by the nurse to assist individuals in the promotion and maintenance of health. In cooperation with other members of the health team, nursing care is delivered in accordance with the legal and ethical standards of the nursing profession and in response to societal health needs.

**Nursing Education** – is the process by which the learner develops a knowledge base for nursing practice progressing from simple to complex. This base includes knowledge and skills from nursing science as well as the humanities and the natural, behavioral and social sciences. Faculty provides an environment conducive for integration of concepts from these disciplines to the practice of nursing in a variety of supervised clinical settings.

The faculty believes students must be actively involved in the learning process to acquire clinical proficiency and to be socialized into professional roles. These roles include provider of care, manager of care and member within the discipline of nursing. Associate degree education is a means of preparation for these roles, and provides experience for the nursing student at the entry level. The associate degree graduate will practice in diverse settings where policies and procedures are specified and guidance is available.

Faculty views learning as a life-long process and subscribes to the belief of career mobility. In accordance with this, an advanced placement option is offered to Licensed Practical Nurses desiring to obtain an associate degree. In addition, distance education for Licensed Practical Nurses is offered at remote sites, enabling these individuals to overcome access barriers by providing a unique educational experience through the use of technology. The nursing program also provides a foundation for further study towards a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

The Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania Associate of Science in Nursing Program facilitates the development of skills and provides the theoretical background necessary to ensure graduate nurses who are capable of delivering quality nursing care to all individuals and families in a variety of settings within the community.

### **Educational (Program) Objectives**

Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania Associate of Science in Nursing Program prepares the graduate to:

1. Integrate knowledge and principles from nursing and general education courses to facilitate care of individual/family in various health care settings within the community.
2. Integrate the nursing process to assist individuals/families throughout the life cycle in reaching their optimal level of health.
3. Provide comprehensive, quality nursing care to individuals/families during alterations in their human needs.
4. Incorporate therapeutic communication skills in providing continuity of care to individuals and families in selected health care settings.
5. Refine health teaching appropriate to the human needs of individuals/families in order that they may achieve their maximum health potential.
6. Evaluate nursing care according to legal and ethical standards of the nursing profession.
7. Demonstrate accountability and responsibility while providing nursing care.