

EKU Baccalaureate & Graduate Nursing  
CURRICULUM ORGANIZATION FRAMEWORK

The major philosophical concepts provide direction for curriculum organization and outcomes. These concepts are derived from professional nursing education and practice, and environmental factors which include a rapidly changing health care delivery system. In an effort to develop a curriculum responsive to a dynamic health care delivery system, the faculty re-conceptualized the curriculum schemata.

Professional nurses must have the ability to define and conceptualize population parameters, and the health care needs of that population. Also, nurses must be able to recognize and predict shifts in health care needs to develop effective nursing practice interventions. Thus, as client needs shift, individual courses can be adapted within the overall framework.

All clinical courses:

- 1.) examine health and selected health care problems of defined populations,
- 2.) explore the epidemiology of the selected health care problems,
- 3.) examine care management issues across the levels of prevention, with a focus on appropriate therapeutic nursing interventions and essential competencies required for safe practice,
- 4.) analyze case management approaches to health care, with a focus on functioning as a member of an interdisciplinary health care team, and
- 5.) provide opportunities for students to demonstrate knowledge and role-appropriate skills.

The pre-clinical nursing courses provide students with basic, frequently used skills (psychomotor, communication, and nursing science domain overview) necessary for entry into the clinical setting.

The health assessment, pathophysiology, and clinical drug therapy courses provide the knowledge and foundation necessary for making clinically effective decisions with clients in a variety of settings. The research course enhances critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making skills. The leadership and role transition courses offer opportunities to synthesize nursing competencies for systems management and to critically analyze factors which shape nursing practice and effect change in the health care delivery system.