

BACCALAUREATE NURSING EDUCATION

Preparation for professional nursing practice requires the broad, liberal, general and professional education provided by baccalaureate education in nursing. Baccalaureate nursing education develops the independent action, collaboration, and decision making. Baccalaureate graduates are prepared to function as nursing care clinicians, health care managers, change agents, health advocates, teachers, counselors, and leaders. Baccalaureate graduates must be decision-makers, critical thinkers, and risk-takers who are proactive in a changing health care practice arena. Baccalaureate graduates must be responsible and accountable for their current and future practice.

Teaching facilitates the learning of essential knowledge, skills, and roles. Teaching is a cooperative, collaborative venture with the learner for the purpose of promoting competence. Nursing education is a transformative process for students and teachers and is a process of reciprocal accountability and responsibility. Both students and teacher share responsibility for the teaching and learning milieu. Through teaching-learning roles created with students, the teacher serves as a guide, role model, facilitator, and coach. The student is aided in interpreting nursing science as well as biological, sociological, psychological, and physical sciences. The education process in nursing provides exposure to a variety of conceptual frameworks in the discipline and develops an appreciation of the professional literature. Grounded in educational theories, the teacher fosters critical thinking in order to produce graduates who seek problem resolution to legal, ethical, predictable, and unpredictable health care situations.

Baccalaureate nursing education fosters the professional nursing socialization of students capable of responding pro-actively to change within society and promoting professional nursing practice. Professional socialization requires exposure to professional role models, opportunities to participate in pre-professional and professional associations, and practice in leadership, affiliation, caring, and advocacy skills.

The faculty is committed to the education of baccalaureate-prepared nurses within the region who will contribute to the general health of the region's diverse populations. Baccalaureate nursing graduates of Eastern Kentucky University are prepared to pursue lifelong learning, function in a variety of health care settings, and delivery models, as well as specialize at the graduate level.