

## Philosophy of the Department of Nursing

The Philosophy of the Department of Nursing, stated as Foundational Beliefs, is consistent with the Mission, Foundational Values, Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (ULOs), and Graduate Learning Outcomes (GLOs) of Messiah University. Herein are stated the Foundational Beliefs of the faculty of the Department of Nursing.

### Foundational Belief 1 - Unity of Faith Learning and Life

Central to and informing both the nursing program and the curriculum is the Christian worldview with its affirmations about God, humanity, and culture as understood from Scripture and throughout history. Consistent with the Messiah University philosophy, the nursing faculty and students seek to integrate the practice of nursing with the belief that God is the source of all truth and the One who created persons to glorify God within their environment and society.

### Foundational Belief 2 - Importance of Person

A person is a unique being, an integration of physiological, psychological, sociocultural, developmental, and spiritual variables (Neuman, 1995). Each person is created in God's image and therefore has inherent value and significance. The person is created to live in harmonious relationship with God, self, and others.

### Foundational Belief 3 - Significance of Community

A person is an open system who lives in relationships in interface with the environment. The family is the basic unit of society. Its bonds are defined biologically, legally, culturally, and personally. The family exists for the transmission of values, growth and development of its members, and enhancement of its community.

### Foundational Belief 4 – Disciplined and Creative Living

The environment is composed of all internal and external influences that surround the person. A healthy human environment reflects the glory of God the Creator, is disciplined, supports human well-being with its resources, is ecologically balanced and free of pollution, is actively engaged in an ever-changing world, and is characterized by shalom and freedom from violence. Shifts in society require new creative approaches to nursing that encompass informed, responsible, and ethical choices for promotion of disciplined and creative living.

### Foundational Belief 5 - Service and Reconciliation

Nursing as divine service is participation in God's redemptive activity in the world. It flows from a sense of calling and personal worth and is sustained by God-given resources, and is characterized by attitudes and actions of service and reconciliation directed toward the well-being of persons, families, and communities. Christian attitudes of accountability, which include ongoing personal and professional

development, as well as attitudes of reconciliation are essential for effective interactions among health team members and with persons, families, and communities.

#### Foundational Belief 6 – Importance of Diversity

Nursing is practiced within a local, national, and international context. Nursing caregivers must have knowledge of human diversity and be able to apply knowledge of the effects of human diversity on health status and responses to primary, secondary, and tertiary preventions. The context of practice influences the delivery but not the essence of care.

#### Foundational Belief 7 – Importance of Integration of Faith and Learning

The integration of faith and learning for service, leadership, and reconciliation in both theoretical and clinical educational environments provide the foundation of the nursing program. The nursing faculty view nursing as a call to service through which health concerns of persons, families, and communities are holistically addressed. Commitment to ongoing personal, spiritual, and professional development and service are foundational in fulfilling the roles of the beginning and advanced professional nurse.