

Nursing Philosophy

Whitney Evans

Lakeview College of Nursing

February 15, 2019

### Nursing Philosophy

Being a professional nurse is like being a good mother or father. One must be prompt yet pliable and capable of adapting to situations being presented to them at a moment's notice. While doing this, they must keep a calm and caring demeanor to obtain their desired results. Nurses hold on to the fears and struggles of their patients, much like a parent does for their children, and educate and encourage them through difficult times.

### **The Professional Nurse**

In some situations, the line between personal and professional is clear, and other times the area is grey and mucky. Nurses are dedicated but must let go easily. They are strong yet soft. Nurses are gentle but not easily walked on. No single definition of nursing is correct or able to encompass every nurse's idea of the professional nurse due to the fact that every nurse is unique to themselves, every client is unique, and every situation a nurse encounters is unique (Brencick, 2000). The most appealing aspect of nursing is that all of the qualities a nurse holds lie on spectrums that must flow according to each individual situation.

In addition to individual nurses having their own beliefs of what a professional nurse is, facilities have another set of expectations one must adhere to. Inside the facility, each department has additional standards. Professional nurses must maintain proper etiquette and attire both inside and outside of the facility they work in. Employees are continuously representing the company they work for, especially when the logo of the facility is accompanying them (logos on clothing, bumper stickers, name badge, etc).

### **Reaching Nursing School**

During my freshman year of college, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Several surgeries sent her home with drains and wounds that needed daily care; however, insurance only covered home health nurse care one day a week. The surgeon's nurse showed me how to empty the JP drain and how to care for the incision sites while also instructing me on signs of infection or the need for medical attention. At that point, I didn't view nursing as a career, I was providing the help that my mother needed and deserved. One week after my mom's last chemotherapy treatment, my step-brother was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma. Every two weeks, he was able to stay at home for five days, with the exception that someone in the home had to administer a daily shot as well as flush his picc line daily. Again, I had assumed these responsibilities. At such a young age, I was embarrassed by the compliments and encouragement I had received from both sets of staff caring for my mom and my step-brother to follow my "natural talents."

While many opportunities presented themselves to divert my studies to nursing, I kept to my original goal of finishing my degree in biology. It wasn't until after I had my first child and was given such great care by all my nursing staff that I realized I needed to reconsider pursuing an education in nursing. The thought of going back to school after being out for several years was terrifying, but knowing I am caring, passionate and dedicated to helping people pushed me to applying. It also makes me feel good knowing the degree is easily used anywhere in the U.S. and will help me to support my family.

### **Goals**

In the year 2025, I would like to be starting a Master of Science in Nursing program to advance my career as a Family Nurse Practitioner. I would like to feel

comfortable as a practicing nurse before furthering my education because it will help me be a more rounded candidate than if I started the program directly after the BSN program.

Nurse shortages across the nation have made nursing more appealing to many students even though they may not hold all the necessary values to be successful on the job. Most nurses would agree that the desire to care for others is one of the most important qualities a nurse have (Hood, 2018). Nurses are the mothers and fathers of healthcare, constantly keeping the homeostasis between, patients, family members, and the other staff throughout the hospital. They are caring to all they come across, but are also able to advocate fully for their patients and their profession.

## References

- Brencick, J. M., & Webster, G. A. (2000). *Philosophy of nursing : a new vision for health care*. Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press.
- Hood, L. (2018). *Leddy & Pepper's professional nursing* (5<sup>th</sup> ed). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer.