

The Meaning of Becoming a Nurse

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The meaning of being a nurse is defined by the nursing metaparadigm that encompasses  
“ I have neither given , nor will tolerate others’ use of unauthorized aid.”

four basic concepts: person, environment, health, and nursing. The reason why certain individuals decide to pursue a career in nursing involves many different variables that determine their role in the medical field. The one variable that is common among men and women alike in the nursing field is their desire to care for the human race. It takes a very unique, selfless individual to take on this tremendous responsibility. I believe that being a nurse requires an individual to always have an open mind, to always hold themselves to a higher standard of interacting with the people around them, and to abide by the principle of good morales.

There are different reasons for every individual to choose to become a nurse. My desire to become a nurse came at a very early age from a personal experience, and how the nursing staff was able to see my whole family as the person to treat. In 1990, I had a sister that was born with an unhealthy heart. From the day she was born, she had to undergo many surgeries and we became very familiar with the hospital setting, as well as the nurses. They not only cared for my sister, but they also were able to provide the support that my family needed throughout all of our visits and long nights. Everything from making sure all my sister medical needs were met to ensuring that my brother and I had enough video games in our lounge, were undertaken by the nurses. The pure kindness and understanding of these professionals realizing that we were an extension of my sister's treatment, is what has been embedded in my mind throughout these years and it is the main reason why I have always been determined to become a nurse. As I learn, grow, and eventually become a nurse, I will always keep in mind that not only is it important to ensure the well being of the patient, but it is also my duty to ensure that the people closely related to the patient are being taken care of to the best of my ability.

Environment is another key attribute of the nursing metaparadigm. The importance of being aware of the surroundings that are around is key to having not only good health care

experience, but to the proper recovery of a patient. (Branch, Deak, Hiner, and Holzwart, n.d.)

Environment to me is ensuring how the patient is physically feeling as well as the ambient that they will live in after they are discharged from my care. It is important to be aware of these factors because if a patient does not understand the instructions that are prescribed to them to stay in good health, then they have a likelihood of returning with the same symptoms or in a worsened state. Although there are other aspects of the environment to take into consideration, a good health experience and proper recovery are two that I would initially focus on.

The health of the patient is something that should be observed; from what is assessed, to the insurance coverage of the patient. Ensuring that the patient is on their best health physically and mentally before they leave our care is the outcome that I will try to achieve. (Muenzar, 2012) To accomplish this goal, clear instructions about what the patient should do to maintain their health need to be communicated and questions answered to the best of my ability. An example of a situation would be if I had a patient that was newly diagnosed with type I diabetes mellitus. In this situation, I would make sure that they know what supplies they need to utilize and how often. Since this disease tends to be financially bearing, finding out if they might need some form of assistance would be vital to their health. Understanding the vast angles of health is important because the goal is to make sure the person's mind, body, and soul are in good health.

Being a nurse is a way of life. The skills and knowledge that I will acquire in my nursing education will give me the opportunity to serve those who are in need of medical care and beyond. The lessons that I will acquire will assist in not only following the correct procedures, but as well as guide me on an ethical path that delivers excellence. Nursing is a very demanding career; there will be times that I will be pushed to what might seem the limit of my capabilities. In those times, I will embrace the knowledge I have attained and overcome the obstacles that

hinder my performance; in a clinical setting and in my own personal life. As mentioned, nursing is a way of life and that is how I plan to encompass my future career as a nurse.

Lastly, in the year 2025, I envision myself working with either pediatric patients and/or diabetic patients. Working with children has been a long term goal because of the positive impact I had as a child with hospital staff. I want to be able to provide the same care and passion they reflected on me during a time that was life changing and dark. To be able to comfort an individual in a time of need is an accomplishment that is priceless. In regards to diabetic patients, I myself have the disease and I would be able to not only relate to the patient, but also provide a sense that they are not alone. It is a very daunting lifestyle to adhere by when you are diabetic. With my ability as a nurse, I will provide for them the best care possible, stemming from someone that is a professional, living with the condition.

Although there are many ways that a nursing profession may be defined, being a nurse goes beyond any words that define them. By using the skills learned through the education system layed out for a nurse and having an understanding of the metaparadigm of nursing, I will be able to become a successful nurse. As everyone in the program knows by now, nursing is not an easy skill to undertake, but with perseverance and a guiding moral compass, the abilities that follow will change and even save someone's life. The interpretation that I have as of now for my nursing philosophy will inevitably change due to the changes that are constantly occurring in the nursing field and within myself. The person, environment, health, and nursing aspect of this career are variables that will always be constant. They should be reflected on to keep nurses rooted on what their main goals are, and that is to provide beyond excellent service to everyone that we may come or be part of their wellbeing.

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