Philosophy and Goals of Aria Health School of Nursing

The philosophy and goals of the school are in accord with the vision, mission and performance improvement program of the governing body.

The philosophy and goals of the school are reflective of the Hospitals’ commitment to education, community service and respect for the individual.

Philosophy

The Faculty of Aria Health School of Nursing believes:

Nursing is a profession that utilizes a body of knowledge integrating physiological and biopsychosocial sciences. It is a practice discipline using a holistic, dignified and caring approach across the Health-Illness Continuum. Nurses assist individuals, families, communities and society in the promotion, maintenance and restoration of optimal health and wellness. The unique role of the nurse encompasses a wide range of functions including teaching, consumer advocacy, ethical decision-making, communication, leadership and interdisciplinary collaboration. Nurses strive to promote a safe environment in all practice settings.

Methodologies employed by the nurse include application of the nursing process, nursing judgment, principles of equality and justice, and the concept of change theory. The professional nurse acts in accord with legal and regulatory guidelines.

Nursing education is a systematic, dynamic process through which the learner acquires knowledge of the art and science of nursing. The analysis and application of evidence-based practice, best practices and nursing informatics are emphasized. This process is accomplished through the transfer of theory to safe patient-centered practice through meaningful clinical experiences in a variety of settings.

Education is as an ongoing process, through which the learner develops knowledge, attitudes, values, and skills to achieve an awareness of professional accountability and responsibilities.
This is achieved by systematic reflection on practice as a basis for generation of new knowledge and innovation.

The **nursing curriculum** is built upon and uniquely integrated with the humanities, arts and sciences. The faculty responds to changes in technology and informatics, trends and emerging global issues. The following constructs form a foundation for the curriculum: knowledge and science, nursing process, nursing judgment, relationship-centered care, individual/family/community, context & environment, and personal and professional development. The curriculum progresses in a logical, sequential order with increasing complexity.

**Learning** is a cumulative, lifelong process by which the learner is challenged to develop an attitude of inquiry. The teaching/learning process is a shared experience between faculty and students. Faculty facilitates personal and professional development and encourages self-directed learning through mentoring. The faculty is responsible for identifying critical knowledge for competent nursing practice, using creative strategies to engage all types of learners from diverse backgrounds, and maintaining open channels of communication to facilitate student learning. The faculty empowers the student to actively participate in learning through the use of reflective thinking. Students are responsible for theoretical/clinical preparation and communication of learning needs.

Recognizing that nursing encompasses lifelong learning with flexibility of role boundaries, the **goal of nursing education** is to prepare a competent beginning nurse generalist who functions as a member of the health care team, demonstrates nursing judgment, utilizes informatics, incorporates quality improvement, is committed to lifelong learning, and applies evidence to support decisions in ambiguous situations in the delivery of exceptional care that is culturally sensitive and client-centered.

**The individual** is unique and multidimensional, possessing universal needs and comprised of biopsychosocial, cultural, and spiritual attributes. The individual functions within the framework
of family, community and society. The individual is encouraged to master developmental tasks striving toward self actualization. The nurse guides the individual in efforts to reclaim or develop new pathways toward human flourishing (NLN, 2010). The individual is dynamic, interacting with an uncertain and complex environment.

**Health** is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (World Health Organization, 1947). Health is defined by individuals in relation to their own values and culture, personality and lifestyle. The Health-Illness Continuum is represented by attainment of optimal health and wellness by the individual. Healthcare is a right of every individual. Nurses assist individuals with health promotion and optimal health & wellness across the lifespan.

The **environment** consists of everything that surrounds the individual and is affected by physical, economic, social and political influences.

The School of Nursing is committed to the **community**. Students and faculty participate in community-centered activities promoting health and quality care for diverse populations.

**Goals**

Graduates of the program will be able to function as beginning nurse generalists in the provision of patient-centered care derived from the use of informatics, evidence-based practice, quality improvement and interdisciplinary collaboration to…

1. Synthesize principles from the humanities, arts, and physical and biopsychosocial sciences into nursing practice.
2. Demonstrate self-reflection and nursing judgment in practice.
3. Apply the nursing process when assisting individuals, families and communities to achieve optimal health and wellness.
4. Demonstrate personal and professional accountability for safe nursing practice congruent with professional, ethical, and legal standards.
5. Demonstrate effective communication, incorporating leadership and change theory when collaborating with individuals, families, communities and the interdisciplinary team.

6. Incorporate the roles of teacher and advocate into professional practice assisting human flourishing of individuals, families and communities to make informed health related decisions in an uncertain healthcare environment.

7. Provide nursing care responsive to environmental, developmental and cultural variables that influence the health state of individuals, families, and communities throughout the life cycle.

8. Coordinate health care for individuals, families, and communities incorporating the spirit of inquiry toward health promotion, maintenance, and restoration.

9. Participate in lifelong personal and professional development and service to the community.