

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Mission and Philosophy

Mission

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree is designed to respond to the emerging health care needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities providing a foundation for excellence in nursing practice. The graduate is prepared to assume the role of a nurse generalist when delivering culturally competent care in a wide range of health care settings with diverse populations across the life span. The BSN graduate utilizes critical thinking, leadership, and management of care founded on evidenced-based practice. The importance of engaging in lifelong learning, and community service is valued and encouraged.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the BSN degree is consistent with the general goals of a liberal arts and science education at Colorado Mesa University. The curricula are **population-based** and **community-focused**, with an integration of knowledge from the arts and sciences into the nursing curriculum providing a solid foundation for the development of critical thinking skills. A professional nursing education prepares a competent practitioner who values lifelong self-evaluation, self-acceptance, and learning that supports growth and development as a professional nurse. Graduates of the program are prepared for entry into practice to function in a caring manner within increasingly complex health care settings.

Each **learner** brings unique qualities. Acknowledging their individuality, students are responsible for actively participating and assisting the faculty in the educational process. **Faculty** utilize varied teaching-learning strategies, in accordance with academic requirements of the University, recognized standards of nursing practice, and societal expectations to enhance learner needs. Learning is achieved through progression from simple concepts to complex theories. Learning outcomes are informed through continuous assessment and formalized evaluation.

The faculty identifies **patients** (clients) as individuals, families, groups, or communities, who continuously interact with their environment. Clients are recognized as dynamic beings requiring care on multiple levels having physiological, psychological, social, spiritual, and cultural components. Depending on the nature of the healthcare encounter, the client can assume an independent, interdependent, or dependent role. Nursing interventions are based on health promotion and -maintenance, restoration, and end-of-life care.

Health, when viewed on a continuum, involves more than just the absence of disease or infirmity. It is a dynamic state in which the potential of each person is fully realized possible. Within this framework, the delivery of health care resources is an interdisciplinary, collaborative effort among health professionals. Graduates promote wellness in diverse populations at the local, state, national, and international level.

Environment represents a person's diverse physical, social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions. An environment encompasses one's surroundings, viewpoints, and beliefs that influence perceptions and interactions regarding health. Each person exists within an ever-changing environment; the environment can be altered to positively affect one's health by reducing stressors and promoting wellbeing.

Informed by the arts and sciences, **professional nursing** embodies a dynamic caring relationship, designed to uniquely preserve and enhance the integrity, dignity and worth of individuals while upholding ethical, moral, legal, and humanistic principles. Nurses provide client-centered care from a holistic interdisciplinary perspective using critical thinking, communication, assessment, and professional skills. Furthermore, to provide professional care, nurses must demonstrate knowledge of the nursing process, health promotion, risk reduction, disease prevention and management, leadership, information technologies, and evidence-based practice. As members of a profession, nurses advocate for quality care respectful of human diversity in a global environment. A commitment to enhanced discipline is shown by remaining active in professional organizations and in the political and regulatory processes.