



# JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF NURSING  
BROOKS REHABILITATION  
COLLEGE OF HEALTHCARE SCIENCES

## **Philosophy**

Jacksonville University School of Nursing faculty values the diverse backgrounds and experiences of its students and emphasizes the importance of a liberal arts foundation, engaged learning, scholarly inquiry, clinical excellence, and the socialization of students into the caring practice of professional nursing.

The faculty believes that baccalaureate nursing education is the entry level into professional practice and that graduate education is necessary for advanced nursing practice. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program prepares professional nurses as self-assured, competent generalists who think critically, engage in clinical inquiry, communicate effectively, and assess and manage the health needs of clients in a variety of settings.

The Graduate programs prepare professional nurses to assume leadership roles in a global society, think critically, communicate effectively, and practice in advanced roles. Graduates evaluate health issues of clients, institutions, and communities, and develop collaborative, innovative strategies that effect change and promote evidence-based practice. Graduates promote health, advance nursing knowledge, impact health policy, and commit to lifelong learning.

The philosophy of the School of Nursing is illustrated by a four-point star. The star represents the essential components of the nursing program. Caring and engaged learning emanate from the center of the star and support students' development of competence in scholarly inquiry, clinical excellence, leadership and health and education technology.

Caring is an inherent characteristic of nursing and is demonstrated through compassionate concern to protect and enhance human dignity. Caring is present in all aspects of nursing and encompasses being fully present to meet the holistic needs of the individual person, family, and community. Faculty believes that caring is cultivated and refined through education and enacted through values and behaviors. Faculty encourages students to maintain balance in their personal and professional lives through continued self-examination and fosters supportive and nurturing relationships with nursing students serving as mentors and role models in the classroom and clinical areas.

Faculty believes that engaged learning is an essential strategy to gain knowledge that leads to excellence in nursing practice. Elements of engaged learning include [creative inquiry, a community of interdisciplinary scholars, diverse thinking, questioning, and critical application of concepts to experiential learning], such as clinical practice, internships, externships, and community service. Faculty facilitates engaged learning by serving as role models of lifelong learning, establishing practice partnerships for learning experiences, and fostering a learning environment of mutual respect. Engaged learning and caring influence all aspects of professional nursing and is demonstrated by excellence in scholarly inquiry, clinical excellence, leadership, and health and education technology.

Faculty believes scholarly inquiry in nursing is the continual search for knowledge and application of knowledge to professional practice. Faculty fosters an appreciation for scholarly inquiry important to evidence-based practice and the advancement of professional nursing and encourages students to engage in research and scholarly activities. Faculty believes that graduates value the importance of lifelong learning and will contribute to the body of nursing knowledge.

Faculty believes clinical excellence is demonstrated by the transfer of knowledge from theoretical courses to professional practice and is exemplified by the stellar reputation of the rigorous nursing programs at Jacksonville University. Clinical excellence encompasses professionalism, effective communication and interpersonal skills, diagnostic acumen, skillful negotiation of the health care system, a scholarly and caring approach to clinical practice, and passion for the profession of nursing. Students develop clinical excellence through comprehensive learning opportunities provided by practice partnerships with various health care organizations.

Leadership is an essential quality in professional nursing. Nurses serve as formal and informal leaders in the workplace and the community as patient advocates, change agents, conflict mediators, and political activists. The faculty believes that leadership can be taught and is developed through classroom and clinical activities, role modeling and mentoring others, and involvement in professional activities and organizations.

Faculty believes that technology is vital in academic teaching and professional practice. Faculty pursues technological initiatives for innovative and creative teaching and facilitates teaching and learning through online, web-based, and simulation technologies. Faculty expects students to be adept in the use of current and emerging technologies in an evolving, complex health care environment.

The curricular progression fosters professional socialization for future nursing roles and responsibilities within the global community. As students learn and mature in nursing knowledge and ability, they practice as professional nurses, provide leadership to promote and improve health, lead and manage collaborative efforts to and promote the advancement of nursing through life-long learning.

Approved 1/28/2010  
Changes approved 9/17/15