

**Montana State University
College of Nursing**

**Policy A-3
Vision, Mission, Goals, and Philosophy**

VISION:

MSU College of Nursing will be internationally recognized for innovation, discovery, excellence and leadership in education, research and practice.

MISSION:

Our mission is to enhance the health of the people of Montana, our nation, and the global community by providing leadership for professional nursing through excellence in education, research, practice and service.

GOALS:

- 1) To inspire baccalaureate and graduate students, within a diverse, challenging, and engaging learning environment, to become leaders in the practice of professional nursing.
- 2) To create an interactive environment in which faculty and students discover, learn, and integrate knowledge into nursing practice.
- 3) To serve as leaders in nursing by generating, translating, and disseminating knowledge through research and scholarly activities.
- 4) To promote health and wellness through professional practice, collaboration, consultation, civic engagement, education, and leadership.

PHILOSOPHY:

Introduction

We believe in excellence in nursing education through a teaching learning process that is the responsibility of both faculty and student. We promote the development of lifelong self-directed learning that fosters leadership in education, research, practice, and service. We believe in a learning environment that supports diversity of people and ideas. Our efforts are directed toward achieving higher levels of education for all nurses, and transforming healthcare in the United States and the world. We believe that nursing education is framed within the context of nursing's metaparadigm: person, environment, health, and nursing.

Person

A person is any individual, family, group, community or population. Each person is unique and is entitled to treatment with dignity and respect.

Environment

Environment includes all factors influencing a person's health perceptions, behaviors and responses. The human experience is contextually defined by the interrelationship of spiritual, cultural, developmental, physical, psycho-social, political, and economic subsystems. The appropriate arena for nursing action extends beyond the person and includes promotion of healthy environments through social action.

Health

Health is a state of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being defined by the person. It is not merely the absence of disease or disability. Health is multi-factorial and is influenced by many factors such as behaviors, environments, genetics, and resources. There are diverse cultural definitions of health. Health activities include those directed at maintenance, enhancement, prevention and promotion.

Nursing

Nursing is a discipline of science and art requiring synthesis of evidence based knowledge, professional skills, ethical values, and human caring. Nurses assist persons to achieve optimal health. Nurses generate a unique body of knowledge to meet the complex needs of persons in a variety of health care settings from rural to urban.

Nursing education

Nursing education focuses on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed by nurses to practice effectively within a complex and changing environment. It “intentionally fosters use of multiple fields of study, use of wide-ranging knowledge of science, cultures, and society; high level intellectual and practical skills; an active commitment to personal and social responsibility; demonstrated ability to apply learning to complex problems and challenges; and personal engagement as a responsible citizen in a global society” (Association of American Colleges and Universities, *College Learning for the New Global Century*, 2007, p. 4). The education of nursing students is based on professional, regulatory and organizational standards.

Reviewed/Approved by:

Level I: Executive Council (May, 2011)

Level II: Faculty President (May, 2011)