

**Des Moines Area Community College
Nursing Program**

Philosophy

In accordance with the vision of Des Moines Area Community College, the nursing programs provide students with a quality, student-centered nursing education designed to build a foundation in cultural understanding, social enrichment, and life-long learning. Students are prepared to provide safe, competent and efficient nursing care for individuals and families across the lifespan.

The nursing faculty believes that all persons have the right to be recognized and respected as unique, holistic beings with inherent dignity and worth. Each individual person has both universal and specific needs and is distinguishable from the family, group and/or community to which they belong. Individuals, families and groups become clients when nursing is engaged to provide care that is desired or needed.

Hhealth is a dynamic state of physical, emotional, social, cultural, and spiritual well-being. Illness occurs when actual or perceived needs cause significant distress to the person or interferes with the ability to meet activities or needs of daily life.

Nnursing is an art and a science. The art of nursing is the creative, innovative and compassionate delivery of nursing care to all clients. The nurse creates an environment that enhances the potential of the individual/family to adapt and to strive for their highest level of well-being. The science of nursing and other disciplines is the foundation for therapeutic nursing interventions provided to clients to meet their needs for health promotion, health maintenance, illness prevention, illness care, rehabilitative care and support until death.

Learning is the active process of acquiring knowledge and understanding, developing critical thinking abilities and applying artistic and scientific concepts. Nursing education is the process of discovery that is a cooperative endeavor between instructor and student and includes the mutual sharing of ideas and experiences.

The goal of nursing education is to develop an individual who works within professional and ethical guidelines to make sound clinical decisions through the use of critical thinking, creative and evidenced-based practice, and collaboration with the patient, family and health care team. The graduate of the practical nurse program is prepared to provide nursing care to clients with predictable health needs under the supervision of the registered nurse or health-care provider. The graduate of the associate degree program is prepared to provide nursing care to individuals and families across the lifespan in a variety of settings.