

## HACC—CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA’S COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM’S CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework underlying the curriculum of HACC – Central Pennsylvania’s Community College represents the conceptualization of the faculty’s view of nursing and nursing education. It is an eclectic view that incorporates concepts from various nursing theories and disciplines. The roots of the conceptual framework spring from the nursing program philosophy statement and are consistent with the mission of the college. Components included in the philosophy are Person, Environment, Health and Nursing Education.

The curriculum is built upon four core concepts, which act as a foundation for the organization of the educational course content within the various levels of the nursing program. The development of these four core concepts is derived from the ***NLN Core Competencies for Graduates of Associate Degree Nursing Programs*** and the ***NLN Core Competencies of Graduates of Educational Programs in Practical Nursing***. These four core concepts, which reflect the faculty’s contribution, are Professionalism, Communication, Critical Thinking and Caring.

From these four core concepts, the curriculum content is organized into four Client Needs categories. These Client Needs categories act as a link between nursing education and clinical practice. These Client Needs categories, based upon the ***NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN Test Plans*** are: Safe and Effective Care, Health Promotion and Maintenance, Psychosocial Integrity, and Physiological Integrity. They are consistent with expectations for licensure and state law/rules and include an emphasis on nursing interventions and identified competencies of a graduate nurse.

The faculty further identified nine key components, which will act as threads throughout the curriculum and come from definitions found in the Nursing Program Philosophy. These nine key components are Clinical Competence, Life-Long Learning, Nursing Process, Evidence-Based Practice, Health Continuum, Life Span, Developmental Stages, Holism and Ethical Practice.

The conceptual framework is best understood through the description of and elaboration upon the four core concepts and their components.

### **Professionalism:**

Professionalism within nursing practice is characterized by a commitment to the profession of nursing. The graduate of a nursing program at HACC—Central Pennsylvania’s Community College uses legal, ethical, and regulatory frameworks, in addition to the nursing process, to provide evidenced-base utilizes the nursing process and evidence-based care. By adhering to the standards of professional practice and accepting responsibility and accountability for individual actions, the graduate nurse will demonstrate clinical competence. Professionalism includes empathy for others as demonstrated by the ability to care for diverse