

KANSAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF NURSING EDUCATION AND HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION (DNE)

MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY

MISSION

The mission of the Kansas Wesleyan University Department of Nursing Education baccalaureate program is to prepare students as professional nurse generalists by incorporating the areas of biopsychosocial, behavioral, and spiritual development into the delivery of nursing education so that students may provide client-centered care, pursue graduate studies and continue lifelong learning.

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Department of Nursing Education is to offer an educational program that provides professional nursing education for students that is characterized by excellence and rooted in a liberal arts tradition. This program should nurture the whole person – body, mind, and spirit, stimulate creativity and discovery, develop both intellect and character, foster a sense of social responsibility and service, and prepare graduates for lifelong learning. Six concepts permeate the professional nursing curriculum: humans, society, environment, health, nursing, and education.

Humans and Society

Humans are perceived as biopsychosocial, spiritual beings who have the right of self-determination, make choices throughout life and are accountable for their choices. Humans are individuals, families, and communities. Humans are clients and health care providers who live in a society which is shaped by environmental, cultural, religious, socioeconomic, governmental and safety factors that influence the communities in which people live.

Environment

Environment includes internal physiological factors as well as external sociocultural factors with which the client and health care providers are in constant interaction. Nursing helps to create and maintain safe environments that promote the well-being of persons and the health care system.

Health

Health is a dynamic state, in which persons interact with their environment and adapt to it in order to maintain a dynamic equilibrium. Nursing helps clients to promote health, prevent illness, and provide support for the maintenance of equilibrium when the client cannot do so. Health is influenced by the interaction of physical, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual dimensions.

Nursing

Best practice in nursing is both art and science, drawing upon various disciplines and expanding its own body of knowledge through research and practice. Communication, critical thinking, ethical reasoning, cultural sensitivity, knowledge, therapeutic skills, and leadership-management principles are essential to the practice of nursing. Nursing care is based on research evidence and decision-making skills in collaboration with clients, families, and other health care providers. Nurses use the nursing process to assess the client's health status, formulate nursing diagnoses, plan and implement client-centered care and evaluate the care provided.

Education

Education is the process whereby individuals acquire knowledge, skills, and attitudes, and values that assist them in reaching their optimum potential. Nurse educators draw upon theories of education and principles of learning to provide an environment conducive to student growth and change. An effective learning environment is characterized by encouragement of active student participation, the use of critical

reasoning, and provides the basis for life-long learning. The nursing curriculum is influenced by a strong liberal arts emphasis as well as humane Christian values.

Baccalaureate education in nursing at KWU provides opportunities for the student to integrate professional education with the natural and behavioral sciences and the humanities, and Christian values, leading to self-fulfillment and professional development. Baccalaureate nursing education prepares nurses to use critical thinking skills, research findings, independent clinical judgment, organizational skills, and technological understanding for quality improvement of nursing care. Additionally, baccalaureate nursing education prepares nurses to serve as leaders; to collaborate as team members with other health care providers in coordinating the care of individuals, families, and communities in diverse settings; to effect change and improve health care outcomes; and to participate in research which validates and extends current nursing knowledge and practice. Furthermore, the baccalaureate nursing graduate is expected to participate in professional nursing activities at local, state, national, and global levels. Graduates will incorporate the influences of consumer demands and health care trends for quality improvement in nursing and health care delivery.

BUILDING ON A LEGACY

The nursing program at Kansas Wesleyan University was established in January 1988 as a result of discussions between Asbury Hospital and Kansas Wesleyan University. The KWU Department of Nursing Education initiated an Associate Degree in Nursing in 1989, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree-completion program in 1990. Registered Nurses who had a diploma or an Associate Degree in Nursing had the opportunity to pursue a BSN one evening per week for 16 months and still work full-time. A unique approach to the clinical aspect of the program was the Applied Learning Projects (ALPs). Both programs were approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing and obtained accreditation by the National League for Nursing in 1991. By June 2004, the last Accelerated RN to BSN group graduated. A traditional 4-year BSN degree program was designed in 2004, and the Class of 2007 was the first cohort to graduate.

Starting in 2014, the need for major program revisions was identified. In the summer of 2015, new full-time nursing faculty were hired with advanced nursing degrees. Also in 2015 and 2016, the nursing curriculum was revised to more closely align with *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* [American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), 2008] and other professional nursing guidelines and standards. Increasing the rigor of the nursing curriculum in this way ensures our students are learning the most current practices and procedures. In 2017, the “Bachelor of Science in Nursing” degree was converted to a “Bachelor of Science major in nursing” degree so that new curriculum delivery methods could be implemented and evaluated separately from the former BSN degree.

While KWU continues to provide a baccalaureate nursing program for traditional pre-licensure students, we now also offer an RN to BS nursing degree online program for articulation students who are licensed RN’s wanting to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

Nursing students at KWU receive clinical instruction in a variety of health care facilities. Salina Regional Health Center (SRHC) provides the majority of clinical experiences. Other opportunities are provided in long-term care settings, physicians’ offices and community service agencies. A graduate of the KWU Bachelor of Science major in nursing degree program is eligible to apply for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) to become licensed as a registered nurse.

Nursing students are encouraged to apply for the State of Kansas Nursing Scholarship. This annual, renewable scholarship requires that the applicant be accepted into the nursing program, enroll full-time, be a Kansas resident, meet other criteria outlined in the financial assistance application, and agree to work for a healthcare facility/sponsor after graduation for one year for each year of the scholarship. A number of local organizations outside the university provide small scholarships on an intermittent basis.

Accreditation and Approval of the KWU Nursing Program

The Kansas Wesleyan University baccalaureate nursing program is on conditional approval by the Kansas State Board of Nursing (Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson, Suite 1051, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1230, Phone: 785-296-4929, Fax: 785-296-3929, ksbn.org) and also supported by the university's accreditation, which was reaffirmed in 2017 by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602-2504, www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org. Telephone: (800) 621-7440 or (312) 263-0456).

The baccalaureate degree in nursing at Kansas Wesleyan University is a new applicant pursuing initial accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. New applicant status is neither a status of accreditation nor a guarantee that accreditation will be granted. Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 887-6791.

Sunflower Health Network: Salina Regional Health Center and KWU

The Salina community and region continue to benefit from an agreement between KWU and Salina Regional Health Center (SRHC). This agreement was developed to expand the opportunities for Kansas Wesleyan student nurses by providing additional financial support for their education through Salina Regional Health Center. In return they are employed by Salina Regional Health Center following graduation.

KWU currently provides significant scholarship support for its students. Under the agreement, KWU agrees to continue its regular scholarship aid packages for each incoming class of students. Salina Regional Health Center agrees to provide additional scholarship aid packages.

Students selected for the SRHC scholarship and who are accepted into the B.S. major in nursing degree program will receive a scholarship of \$3,600 for their first year in the nursing program and a \$5,400 for their second year in the nursing program as long as they are in good academic standing. Students at this level who do not continue in the KWU nursing program are obligated to repay any of the scholarship aid received from SRHC.

Students who complete the baccalaureate nursing degree program are expected to work at SRHC or a Sunflower Health Network participating facility for a minimum of four years. Graduates who do not fulfill this requirement will be required to repay the scholarship aid received on a pro-rated basis, with each year of service completed at SRHC or a Sunflower Health Network participating facility equaling 25 percent of the scholarship aid received.

More information about the Sunflower Health Network is available at www.sunflowerhealthnetwork.com.