Philosophy

Introduction
The College of Nursing is a community of scholars and practitioners dedicated to the enhancement of human well-being through education of inquisitive students, creative innovation within practice, and development and dissemination of research. We believe that: enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is a right of all people; nursing is an art and science whose goal is to support optimal health of all through partnership with individuals, families, and communities; and environments can be structured and enhanced to promote health and well-being.

The College of Nursing strives for an environment in which all who come are welcomed and in which those who join our community will be challenged and supported to reach their highest potential. We support diversity of thought and persons and foster a desire for excellence.

Health
Health is a state of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The health of individuals is affected by their genetic makeup, personal behaviors, and their internal and external environments. The health status of individuals, families, populations, and communities is a result of dynamic interaction between humans and their external environments.

Nursing
Nursing is a professional discipline that addresses the health needs of a diverse and changing society. Nurses assess potential and actual health needs of individual, family, aggregate, or community clients; plan and deliver indicated interventions through cooperation, collaboration, and consultation with clients and professionals from health care and other disciplines; and evaluate the outcomes of health interventions. Nurses assist individuals and families to achieve optimal well-being by promoting or restoring health, supporting death with peace and dignity, and facilitating care across the life-span in an increasingly complex healthcare system. Nurses collaborate with organization, population, and community-level clients in planning, delivering, and evaluating interventions to assure that healthy environments, resources for optimal health, and high quality health care are accessible and acceptable to all persons without regard to age, race, culture, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, political views, or economic or social status.

Excellence in nursing is exhibited in practice that demonstrates caring, commitment, compassion for the dignity and well-being of all people and adherence to professional and ethical standards. Nurses analyze, synthesize, apply, and evaluate knowledge from nursing and other disciplines to improve health by providing high quality care. Nurses generate knowledge by conducting high impact research, engaging with communities, and contributing to changes in standards as the role of the professional nurse evolves.

Nursing Education in the Context of Practice, Research, and Community Engagement
Learning is a life-long process through which individuals achieve their highest levels of personal and professional growth. Through baccalaureate, doctoral, and continuing professional education, the College of Nursing provides students with knowledge, skills, and other resources that foster excellence in practice, research, community engagement, and a commitment to life-long learning. Faculty, staff, and students engage in strategic planning, implementation, and evaluation to enhance the learning environment of the University of Kentucky. Within the teaching-learning environment, faculty and students participate in educational partnerships that support achievement of professional and program goals. Faculty provide: learning opportunities appropriate to student and program objectives; guidance and support that reflect the unique
learning styles and needs of individuals; and an environment that promotes self-growth and career satisfaction. Students are encouraged to assume leadership in meeting responsibilities of citizenship and attainment of educational, professional, and social goals. Faculty practice, research, instruction, and community engagement provide role-modeling and mentorship for students and contribute to nursing’s knowledge base. Working in collaboration with local, state, national, and international partners, faculty, staff, students and graduates contribute to expanding the profession’s knowledge base and improving the public’s health.

The College of Nursing within the Context of the University of Kentucky as Land-Grant Institution with a Research I Designation and an Academic Medical Center
The College of Nursing is influenced by the University’s role as a land-grant institution and by the emphasis on research and clinical and translational science. With our commitment to improving health of persons in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, our education, practice and research efforts merge with service and community engagement. Individuals, families and communities in Kentucky and beyond benefit through participation in state-of-the-art collaborative care delivered by interdisciplinary teams.

Approved by College of Nursing Faculty December 2009