

SECTION I – Introduction

The Faculty, Staff and students of Trinity Health System School of Nursing wish to welcome you, the newest member of our Organization.

The STUDENT HANDBOOK serves as the OFFICIAL GUIDE for the School community. An understanding of academic and non-academic regulations facilitates harmonious interpersonal interaction and identifies guidelines which help establish an educational environment which supports the individual learner.

We are pleased you are here and hope you will enthusiastically share with us the great challenge of nursing. We look forward to your contribution in helping to maintain and perpetuate the proud heritage of excellence which is the foundation of our School.

Any suggestions you may have for improving or strengthening our School should be channeled to the School Director via your faculty/student committees.

All students are required to sign an agreement stating they have read the Student Handbook, understand it, and agree to comply with the Regulations/Policies stated therein.

All new or revised policies are communicated formally in writing or electronically to each student as an addendum to this Handbook. Postings on student bulletin boards and verbal presentations are informal means of dissemination of information.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Trinity Health System School of Nursing is reflective of faculty beliefs and is in accord with the mission of the Trinity Health System. The School of Nursing fulfills its responsibility to society by preparing a professional nurse who practices safely and ethically within the hospital or other health care settings.

Nursing, as an applied art and science, is based on a specialized body of knowledge including the natural and behavioral sciences. As a dynamic, multi-dimensional health profession, nursing utilizes judgment and skill in providing service to individuals, families, and society. The practice of nursing is guided by current legal, ethical, and professional standards.

The goal of nursing is to assist **individuals and families** in achieving their optimum level of health. Nursing utilizes the **principles of natural and behavioral sciences** as a foundation for practice. Effective **communication** and application of the **nursing process** are utilized to provide comprehensive nursing care. To enhance delivery of care, nursing **adapts health teaching** to meet the needs of individuals and families, **collaborates with members of the health team, fosters support systems, promotes community resources, and maintains current legal and ethical standards** in all aspects of nursing care.

The **individual** is a unique, complex being comprised of biological, psychological, spiritual, and social entities, whose relationship with the environment is continuous and interactive. The individual's **environment** is comprised of internal and external components. The internal environment includes the interacting biological, spiritual, and psychological entities. The external environment consists of society as it interacts with the individual's social entities. **Society** is comprised of individuals, families, and communities sharing common goals. Society possesses structure, values, and beliefs which influence individual behavior. Society adapts as knowledge, resources, and technology change.

Health is a dynamic state of optimal wellness, influenced by the individual's environment. Health exists in the presence and absence of illness. Each individual has the potential to achieve an optimal level of health and the right to make decisions about health care.

Education is a lifelong, dynamic, participative process through which the learner's potential is actualized. Education provides a means by which individuals expand knowledge and accomplish goals. The educational process prepares the learner to assume increasing responsibility and self-direction for continued personal and professional growth.

Learning is the process of acquiring knowledge and skills, is evidenced by changes in behavior, and progresses from simple to complex. Learning occurs best in an open, stimulating environment where the learner and the educator are mutually responsible for the learning process.

The School fulfills its responsibility to the student by providing an educational environment that facilitates the learning process. The faculty guides the learning process and provides an environment that encourages critical thinking and systematic inquiry. The student assumes responsibility for active participation in the learning process.

The faculty is responsible for planning, directing, and evaluating the student's learning experiences according to the mission/vision/core values and quality principles/objectives of the program. The administration, faculty, and staff endeavor to provide competent role models and student services to meet the needs of the student.

Mission Statement

The purpose of Trinity Health System School of Nursing is to prepare a beginning professional nurse. The program assists individuals to achieve curriculum outcomes and demonstrate professional competencies necessary to practice in a variety of health care settings and incorporates the core values of Trinity Health System.

Vision

To assist students to achieve educational outcomes which prepare them to meet the holistic health care needs of individuals, families, and communities throughout the life span.

Core Values & Quality Principles

Reverence

Profound respect and awe for all creation, the foundation that shapes spirituality, our relationships with others and our journey with God.

Integrity

Moral wholeness, soundness, fidelity, trust, truthfulness in all we do.

Compassion

Solidarity with one another, capacity to enter into another's joy and sorrow.

Excellence

Preeminent performance, becoming the benchmark, putting forth our personal and professional best.