

APPENDICES

Appendix I-A-1

DIVISION OF NURSING MISSION STATEMENT

The Division of Nursing, in accordance with Immaculata's mission, strives to develop a truly educated person who is value oriented and committed to truth, justice, service, and peace. The Division of Nursing of Immaculata University seeks to stimulate the expansion of personal and professional consciousness from a holistic perspective within a Christ-centered academic environment.

The generic BSN program is designed to prepare a holistic generalist nurse to practice within complex healthcare systems. Building on the liberal arts and sciences, the program promotes the growth of knowledge, professional skill, and intellectual inquiry. The RN-to-BSN program facilitates the educational mobility of graduates of associate degree and diploma programs of nursing. Both programs prepare the student for graduate study and to meet the challenges of a dynamic health care system for a global community.

The MSN program builds on baccalaureate nursing education and prepares nurses for the roles of advanced practice, of educator and of manager/leader and for doctoral study. In a framework of the liberal arts it strives to provide opportunities to integrate knowledge through logical and critical thought, independent study, aesthetic and cultural awareness, and practical experience. The faculty of the Division of Nursing of Immaculata University guide students in the process of scientific inquiry and the development of research to expand nursing knowledge. The students are challenged to develop as leaders and innovators who impact the nursing profession and the global health care system.

PHILOSOPHY

The nursing faculty believe that *education* is an intellectual journey that involves critical thinking, intellectual inquiry, problem solving, and application to professional practice. In accordance with the beliefs stated in the university's goals, the nursing faculty believe that "the highest service a university can render its students is to prepare them for life." The faculty believe that the BSN program should prepare a holistic generalist nurse to practice within complex healthcare systems; the RN-to-BSN program should build on the strengths of diploma and associate degree nursing programs and on the knowledge, experience, and skills students bring with them; the Master's in Nursing program should build on a BSN education.

As a Catholic liberal arts university, Immaculata is an ideal setting in which to educate professionals for a changing society. The preparation of students for service within a Christ-centered academic community is an institutional commitment. The faculty value the individual uniqueness of each student and strive to create an atmosphere that promotes the development of the whole person with consideration for the physical, intellectual, social, moral, aesthetic, and spiritual nature of humans.

The faculty believe that *nursing* is an art and a science that incorporates the physical, psychological, and social sciences, and the humanities into its practice. As an art, nursing is the use of self in assisting persons to promote, restore, and maintain health, and to die in comfort and with dignity. Nursing necessitates the development of a sense of equity, justice, freedom, dignity, group membership, community, and the encompassing environment.

The faculty believe that the *discipline of nursing* has a scientific basis derived from research. Critical thinking is viewed as the basis of all nursing inquiry and therapeutic nursing actions. Nursing is also acknowledged as a legally sanctioned practice defined in the Pennsylvania Nurse Practice Act as the, "diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual or potential health problems, through such services as case finding, health teaching, health counseling, and provision of care supportive or restorative of life and well being..." (Professional Nursing Law, 1987).

Health is wholeness derived from the harmonious internal interaction of the body, mind, and spirit and the harmonious balance between person and environment. It is an individually perceived and dynamic state.

The faculty embrace a holistic Christian, worldview that views all *humans* as composed of mind, body, and spirit, and believe these components are intertwined and inseparable. The faculty also believe that humans are cultural beings who are unique, who have worth and dignity, and who interact continually in a changing environment.

The *environment* comprises internal and external systems of which the person is an integral part. The internal systems are the somatic, psychic, spiritual, and cultural nexi which form the individual personhood. External systems are comprised of the social, physical, political, and cultural milieus in which the person moves, has being, and through which humanity is expressed. It is believed that person and environment are inseparable. The faculty believe this perspective is essential for understanding the human condition.