North Idaho College
Practical Nursing Program

Mission
North Idaho College’s Practical Nursing Program is committed to student success by providing the highest quality education and teaching excellence. The nursing education received will help students reach their potential in providing safe and professional health care. North Idaho College’s Practical Nursing Program will enhance the quality of life for the student as well as the community and provide a resource for lifelong learning.

Philosophy
The practical nursing faculty believes the person is a holistic being. The person is complete and unified and cannot be viewed as merely the sum of his/her parts. Each person is a unique, thinking being who makes choices, possesses value and dignity, and strives toward attainment of his/her needs. The person does not live alone, but exists interdependently with the environment. The environment may include the family, the culture, and the community in which the person resides. The statements of belief include:

1. Concepts of Nursing
Health, the need and right of each person, is the ongoing effort of the individual to maintain balance in their ever changing environment. The individual constantly strives toward an optimal level of health, wellness, and self-actualization, moving toward independence rather than dependence. Nursing is the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of actual or potential alterations in health. Nursing is a science and an art which recognizes the inherent worth of the individual, the value of human life, and the pursuit of the highest standard of health.

2. Concepts of Practical Nursing Education
Education is a dynamic and continuing process of growth and adjustment during which the student, interacting with the environment, assimilates knowledge and acquires attitudes, appreciations and competencies. Through education, positive change in personal behavior and the environment is achieved. Practical nursing education benefits when it is within the structure of the college where the student may pursue general education courses, as well as professional-technical nursing courses. The college encourages the involvement of community representatives in determining present and future educational needs and the implementation of appropriate curricula to meet the needs identified. The college believes that the interests of the students, the business/industry community, and the college are best served through the advisory partnerships that are well established and maintained.
In accordance with our philosophy, which emphasizes career mobility and articulation with community college programs, practical nursing education is constructed to present an orderly and systematic framework which builds upon common basic principles from the social, biological and psychological sciences. The program is planned to provide continuity, sequence, and integration of learning experiences so the student may progress from simple basic nursing care to that which is more complex.

The practical nursing curriculum is constructed to build on students' previous learning experience. It provides fundamental knowledge to all students. The program provides for learning differences among students. All qualified individuals should have an opportunity for upward mobility in nursing. As faculty, it is our responsibility to provide learning experiences that build on the students' previous educational experiences.

Practical nursing education provides the learner the opportunity to gain knowledge to qualify for the licensing examination and develop basic competencies as stated by the Idaho State Board of Professional-Technical Education. It is an amalgam of theory and clinical experience. The science and technology of nursing changes rapidly; therefore, nursing education focuses on the concepts and principles inherent in meeting basic human needs.

3. **Concepts of the Teaching/Learning Process**

The faculty believes optimal learning occurs when:

- the environment encourages freedom of inquiry, thought, and expression within a framework of professional conduct;
- learning progresses from the simple to the complex, knowledge to application;
- the responsibility for learning is placed on the learner;
- there is a close correlation between theory and practice;
- ample opportunity for application and practice of theoretical concepts is provided;
- a variety of instructional methods are offered to meet the different learning styles of the learner; and
- education is viewed as a life-long process to assist the individual to adapt to changes in his or her environment.

The Nursing Process is the tool of nursing practice and education. The Nursing Process is the method whereby nursing knowledge is transferred into practice. It is the process applied to nursing action and includes assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation and revision.

A varied program of theory, and correlated clinical, community experiences and individualized advisement encourages the student to develop confidence as a person and a nurse who now, and in the future, can be a contributing member of society.
Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Practical Nursing Program the graduate will:

- Recognize people as unique individuals with rights and viewpoints, reflective of their culture and developmental level.
- Integrate theoretical knowledge with clinical practice.
- Utilize the nursing process to provide care for people experiencing problems resulting from illness, injury, or commonly occurring health problems.
- Integrate the nursing roles of organizer, coordinator, advocate, and educator under supervision.
- Demonstrate accountability for learning and growth.
- Utilize effective interpersonal communication skills.