

Nursing professionalism



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Abstract A great number of registered nurses are trained at less than the baccalaureate level. Unlike other professional healthcare disciplines, the professional of nursing has various levels of entry. Several nursing professional organizations are trying to advance the level of entry of nursing through baccalaureate level. A baccalaureate education has a strong influence in the nursing profession. It provides nurses with critical thinking skills and professional advancement. Numerous states have proposed legislation to consent accomplishment of baccalaureate education with the nursing profession.

What does nursing professionalism mean to you? Why is nursing professionalism important to the nursing as a profession? Be specific and provide details. Nursing professionalism is about reporting to work on time, perform and abide to the guidelines as defined with the Nevada Nurse Practice Act and conducts self in a professional manner in accordance with the facility policies which I work on. Nursing professionalism is significant to nursing as a profession. The way a nurse conducts oneself in a workplace in a manner of respect, mutual trust with co-workers and using wise judgment in all undertakings are indicators of professionalism.

How can we as nurses improve the profession of nursing? Is nursing a job or a profession? Why? I consider nursing as a job. According Blaise and Haise (2006), there is little commitment to a job other than going to work, doing what is expected, and collecting a paycheck. Nursing is also a profession. A nurse is specifically educated to take care of patients and anticipate their impending problems and needs. Other nurses consider nursing as a job, not

a profession. There are instances that nurses act in a way that does not clearly exhibit the principles of public service.

Nurses can improve the profession of nursing by conducting oneself in a professional manner in all his or her dealings and must be in compliance with the facility policies in which the nurse works. Nurses must not only be considerate to the needs of their patients, but their co-workers as well. Since nursing is a profession, nurses should enhance their competency by continuing their education and keeping abreast with the latest technology and research. What factors influenced you to become a nurse? Why have you returned to school for your BSN?

What has been the reaction of those around you to your return to school, such as family, friends and colleagues? There are a countless of reasons why I wanted to become a nurse. It all started when my mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Her illness brought our family closer. I did not know what to do and the doctor along with the nurses were discussing my mom's condition using medical jargon. This prompted me to go back to school and become a nurse. Another reason that I returned to school for my Bachelors of Science in Nursing is more of a career choice.

Majority of the management positions requires bachelor's degree. My family is very supportive with my decision to finish my baccalaureate degree in nursing. Friends and colleagues are showing support by checking my progress with school. They are all excited with the idea of me being able to finish my baccalaureate degree. Most of my colleagues have an interest to go back to school, but they could not seem to find time. We all urge each other to register and many make a lot of excuses not to enroll. I promised

myself to go back to school before my 40th birthday and I am proud to say I did.

Search the NSC Library for two (2) articles on nursing as a profession or nursing professionalism. 1.) Provide a detailed synopsis of both articles. Were they research articles and if so, what were the findings? If not research articles, what information were the author(s) trying to convey? 2.) What was the significance in each article to the nursing profession? 3.) What was your personal reaction or feelings after reading these articles? Did they influence you to think about the nursing profession differently and why? 4.) Include the author(s), publication and date.

The Future of Baccalaureate Degrees for Nurses by Susan H. Lane, RN, MSN and Eileen Kohlenberg, PhD, RN, NEA, BC, Nursing Forum Volume 45, No. 4, October-December 2010. The profession of nursing has several entry levels. One of the entry levels in the nursing profession is the associate degree program. The associate degree program was formed when there was a shortage of nurses in the United States. The American Nurses Association (ANA) took an unprecedented role in advanced baccalaureate education for nurses (Lane and Kohlenberg, 2010).

There is a proposition for nurses to have a bachelor's degree in nursing as the mandatory point of entry into the nursing profession. North Dakota, New York and New Jersey are the three states that established propositions that recognized the necessity for advanced preparation provided by baccalaureate education. These three states are favoring towards a more accomplished nursing workforce. This article explores the proposals in the

pursuit of requiring registered nurses to expand for baccalaureate education within 10 years of nurses' effective registered nurse licensure.

According to Lane and Kohlenberg, creating mandatory baccalaureate degrees within 10 years of licensure would not discount the educational importance of associate degree programs, but would allow for continuation of all entries into practice while promoting lifelong learning and expanding the nursing discipline. The implication of the article authored by Lane and Kohlenberg to the nursing profession paves a way to a more educated workforce. The baccalaureate degree is required in all advanced degrees in nursing. Research supports that education rather than experience influences patient outcomes.

This article made me appreciate the significance of baccalaureate education. It has provided awareness that a nurse with an advanced degree is better equipped in educating their patients and delivering care. The advancement of critical thinking and ethical reasoning skills are significantly polished in the pursuit of a baccalaureate education. The article strengthens my interest in continuing my bachelor's degree in nursing. 101 Ways to Improve Nursing Culture: Professionalism by Naomi E. Ervin, PhD, RN, APRN, BC, FAAN, Michigan Nurse Association February 2006.

The article is in reference to nursing professionalism. According to Ervin, professionalism is validated by what nurses' wear, how they classify themselves, and how they relate with others. Displays of professionalism are perceived by others in written and spoken words. Professionalism is on disclosed for all to realize in how we treat each other and our patients. The propositions made by the author like invest and values nursing to

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advancement of patient safety and quality of care and be a standard for work ethics are substantial to the practice of nursing.

The article supports the principles I desire to advocate as a nurse. Choose one nurse theorist, such as Florence Nightingale, Dorothea Orem, or any theorist discussed in the text book in Chapter 6. 1.) What are the concepts, definitions and assumptions of the theory? 2.) What were the influential models or sciences the theorist based her theory on? 3.) What is the nursing role in this theory? 4.) Is the theory a Grand, Middle-Range or Nursing Practice Theory? Explain. 5. What is the macro contribution of this theory to nursing? The modern practice of nursing is clearly established by Florence Nightingale. One of her nursing theories is the Environmental Theory, which integrates the patients' surrounding environment in his or her nursing care plan. The role of the nurse in this theory is to use the patient's environment to help him or her recuperates and get back to the usual environment. The patient's environment is significant since it influence his or her health in a positive or negative way.

Some environmental factors affecting health according to Nightingale's theory are fresh air, pure water, ample supply of food and proper nutrition, efficient drainage, cleanliness, and light or direct sunlight. If any of these factors is missing, it can impede the patient's recuperation. Nightingale also stressed providing a quiet, warm environment for patients to recover in. The theory also calls for nurses to assess a patient's nutritional needs, document food intake times, and assess how the patient's diet influences his or her health and recuperation.

I consider Nightingale's theory “ grand” because Florence Nightingale's beliefs about nursing have inspired the profession of nursing for over 150 years. It is through her work and teachings of caring, being accountable, seeking ways to improve the avenues of care, and emphasizing the professionalism of nursing that nursing has reached its present high standards (Tourville & Ingalls, 2003). Her theory’s biggest contribution is demonstrated through her patient advocacy that gives power to the caring nurse.

Establishing a patient's environment for recovery based on his or her condition or illness is still practiced nowadays. Florence Nightingale’s Theory is one that every nurse should strive to achieve by maintaining a healthy environment not only for their patients, but also for themselves.

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