

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM NURSING CURRICULUM

The nursing curriculum is a concept-based curriculum that reflects the stated mission and philosophy of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Nursing Programs. To prepare graduates in the role of an associate degree nurse by first integrating the role of a practical nurse, the ACCS has developed a one plus one curriculum that provides students with the education for a practical nursing certificate at successful completion of the third semester; completion of NUR 112, 113, 114, and 115, followed by incorporation of the competencies required for the associate degree nurse upon successful completion of the last two semesters; NUR 211 and NUR 221 respectively.

The nursing curriculum design is based on conceptual learning to facilitate transfer of knowledge, facilitate collaborative and active learning, focus on problems, foster systematic observations, focus on nursing actions and interdisciplinary efforts, and foster understanding of relationships. Concepts are linked to each other while presenting exemplars of concepts. This approach helps learners to extrapolate meanings from one concept to another and identify commonalities.

Courses have been carefully planned to provide the student with a continuity of learning experiences. Content is organized in a spiraling manner from simple to complex, building on previous learning and adding new information, while allowing for continual review.

When delivering direct patient care, students are supervised by faculty. In the campus nursing laboratory, simulation and instruction are directed through hands-on practice and facilitated by personal contact and by visual, computer-assisted, interactive, and other multimedia stimuli.

The faculty strives to produce graduates capable of self-direction, who are willing to assume responsibility and accountability for their practice in the health care delivery system.