

**Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences**  
**Nursing Program**  
**Philosophy**

**The nursing faculty believes that:**

Nursing is an art and science that involves caring for the individual: body, mind, and spirit. Nursing utilizes knowledge, skills, and attitudes to assist individuals, families, and communities across the health continuum using the nursing process. Nurses lead and manage collaborative efforts within the interprofessional healthcare team.

Caring is central to nursing and the art of “being with” others toward whom one feels a sense of commitment and responsibility. Caring is client-centered and encompasses compassion, empathy, and nurturing.

Education is an active lifelong process equipping nurses to be leaders. The educational process incorporates evidence-based concepts salient to the changing healthcare needs of individuals, groups, and communities. Our shared educational philosophy is student-centered, conceptually based, and collaborative. Learners are expected to be self-directed and accountable for their performance.

Health is a dynamic state of physical, mental and spiritual and social functioning. The health continuum reflects a person’s experiences when adapting to changes in the internal and external environment to maintain homeostasis. The environment includes the forces that impact the client. An individual has the ability to influence and be influenced by its continual interrelationship with the environment.

An individual is defined as the totality of a person and is the central focus of nursing. An individual has intrinsic values, rights, and responsibilities and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.

The Program’s responsibility to the student is to admit individuals who have the potential to become competent nurses. The Program has the responsibility to assist students to develop their potential by providing a relevant curriculum under the guidance of an educationally prepared faculty. Our faculty strives to facilitate the optimal development of each student’s potential. The Program provides opportunities for student participation in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the Program, and encourages personal growth through advisement, recreational programs, and self-governance.

The Program's responsibility to the community is to prepare competent and accountable professional nurses capable of providing compassionate, high quality, cost-effective nursing care. The Program fosters the understanding of the importance of a lifelong commitment to continuing education and the professional code of ethics. The Program prepares nurses who function as advocates for the individual, family, and community and who are aware of and respond to social-political issues affecting healthcare and the community's health needs.