Registered Nursing Program Mission and Philosophy

The purpose of the Nursing Program at the Skagit Valley College is to educate students to practice nursing within varied health care settings. Nursing education will assist the student to provide optimal level of health and wellness for the individual and family.

SVC Mission and Nursing Program Mission
The Skagit Valley College (SVC) Nursing Program supports the SVC mission, which states “Skagit Valley College provides opportunities for students in pursuit of their educational and employment goals, while contributing to the economic and cultural enrichment of our communities.” The Nursing Program mission is to provide nursing education that contributes to and meets the mission of Skagit Valley College. Skagit Valley College is dedicated to the success of our students. Our work is guided by a set of shared principles and our decisions are based on strategy and evidence. We are committed to quality, innovation, equity, and lifelong learning of students and employees.

Nursing Program Philosophy
The Nursing Department philosophy reflects faculty beliefs about the individual and related concepts of the environment and health/illness and nursing, including nursing practice and education. Consistent with the philosophy of the College, the faculty members also believe students should be facilitated in reaching realistic goals commensurate with their diverse needs and individual abilities.

Core Concepts: The Nursing Philosophy consists of the individual, environment, health/illness continuum, and nursing practice.

The Individual is a multidimensional being with physiological, psychological, sociological, cultural, and spiritual dimensions. Individuals possess dignity, self-worth, and the inherent right to assume responsibility for the development of their own potential. The individual follows a characteristic pattern of growth and development that is influenced by heredity and by personal and environmental factors. Successful adaptation allows the individual to effectively and positively respond and grow throughout the life span.

Environment includes all of the internal and external conditions and circumstances that influence the individual.

The Health/illness continuum implies continuous adaptation to the changing internal and external environments. Illness occurs when there is an alteration in the ability to adapt, resulting in actual or potential health problems.

Nursing practice is a caring art and human science that utilizes critical thinking; cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills; and the nursing process to provide, manage, and coordinate care for the individual client with actual and/or potential health problems. Nursing professionals are responsible for their continuing knowledge and are accountable for their nursing practice. The profession requires critical thinking in both practice and partnerships within healthcare. Nursing faculty believe nursing education is a collaborative learning process that involves learning in theory, research, and practice. Learning is considered an active, life-long process that begins with basic concepts and progresses to complex knowledge and critical thinking skills.
Relationship Between Philosophy and Nursing Competencies/Outcomes:
The Nursing Program’s eight core competencies are derived from the philosophy of individual, environment, health/illness and nursing, and nursing practice and education. These competencies are Professional Behavior, Communication, Assessment, Clinical Decision-making, Caring Interventions, Teaching and Learning, Collaboration, and Managing Care. Each program outcome identifies a broad statement, based on a competency about the Skagit Valley College ADN graduate at completion of the program. In each nursing course, these concepts form the basis of the student learning outcomes.

Associate Degree Nursing Within the Profession of Nursing:
As a nursing professional, the Associate Degree graduate will practice within the legal and ethical guidelines set forth by the Washington State Nursing Practice Act. The Associate Degree graduate is encouraged to join a professional organization and to engage in self-evaluation, self-reflection, and continuing professional growth to strengthen nursing practice standards and provide quality nursing care.