

Teaching Philosophy

Michael M. Evans

Assistant Chief Academic Officer and Instructor of Nursing

Penn State Worthington Scranton

The art and science of nursing is a learned profession, where students of diverse backgrounds learn critical thinking, clinical judgment, and the skill of caregiving from expert faculty. I believe in the various concepts within pragmatism and existentialism philosophies in order to provide students with the best opportunities to succeed in the nursing profession and to develop into the most effective caregiver possible. I embrace the responsibility to maintain excellence in teaching, scholarship, service, and clinical practice through life-long learning and a commitment to all aspects of the educational process. In addition, I am committed to the responsibility to serve the community in a professional role with my students to provide disease prevention and management information in order to help ensure a healthy community environment. I exercise this responsibility through participation with my students in monthly community health fairs for children and the elderly.

I have the responsibility to effectively facilitate the learning and socialization of the nursing profession to my students. I accomplish this through open discussion, personal interviews with nurses, and clinical experiences. I must utilize the latest evidence based teaching-learning-assessment techniques to provide students with the best learning experience possible. I must be available for my students to nurture and advise them to ensure their success and the future of nursing. This is something that I take pride in. I do my utmost to answer all emails within 24 hours and provide each student with my office and cell phone numbers in case they need to discuss an issue. I have the ultimate responsibility of collaborating with students to ensure they are prepared to care for complex individuals in a changing health care environment, and they are prepared to be professionals who can collaborate with other health care providers to face complex situations. This is accomplished through the work I do with students in the simulation lab and hospital environments.

I also believe that, as active participants in the learning process in collaboration with faculty, students are responsible for their own learning and hence, the grades they earn. Students are responsible for learning and assimilating the required materials set forth by the school's curriculum in collaboration with their faculty through the use of classroom lecture and discussion, simulated and real clinical experiences, scholarly activity, and evidence based practice. Within the constraints of the nursing curriculum and in collaboration with nursing faculty, students are encouraged to express themselves and to choose learning activities that fit their own learning needs and styles. Students are also expected to engage in independent learning activities in order to meet their own learning needs and/or to enhance the learning objectives of the nursing program. Finally, students are expected to maintain academic integrity and professional nursing standards at all times in order to positively promote themselves and the profession of nursing.

I believe my teaching philosophy is one that holds the student and me accountable in the teaching-learning process. I find that this empowers them to succeed while providing them with the autonomy to grow as individuals and future nurses. Teaching and nursing are both passions of mine, and I am very fortunate to be able to combine both of them in a way that will better serve individuals and society as a whole.