

Foundational Framework
UPH FACULTY OF NURSING

As UPH has declared itself to be an institution built on a Christian foundation that is committed to producing graduates who are professional and skilled in their respective fields and dedicated to serving God and others, the UPH Faculty of Nursing (FoN) program aims to equip students and graduates as professional nurses that will influence the profession of nursing and those they serve for Jesus Christ (locally, nationally, and internationally) and are dedicated to serving God and others. In this environment, the UPH FoN program is grounded in biblical truth and contributes to the body of nursing knowledge, provides leadership in nursing, and produces graduates who are competent professionals, provide compassionate care, committed to serving Jesus Christ, and demonstrate godly character (James 3:17-18; 1 Peter 2:1-3, 2 Peter 1:5-9).

Providing a program that is grounded in biblical truth and Christ-centered requires that all teaching and scholarship will be firmly governed by this understanding, while still providing thorough and critical exploration of the discipline of nursing and related sciences, theories, and practices. It requires that a biblical worldview and Christ-centeredness are foundational to the study of nursing at UPH. The UPH FoN program is committed to the authority of the inerrant Word of God, which was divinely inspired by God as the Holy Spirit moved men to record the words (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21). Each person is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26); but due to sin has been separated from God and can only be completely restored through redemption in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:22).

The vision of FoN is to be a Christ-centered learning community that will develop competent, professional nurses who are equipped with true knowledge, are guided by faith in Christ, and demonstrate godly character. Nurses equipped as such will be well prepared to meet rapidly changing global healthcare needs, nationally and internationally. The mission of UPH FoN, as a Christ-centered learning community, is to develop professional nurses who:

1. Demonstrate professional competency by
 - a. contributing to the body of nursing knowledge, that includes nursing science, technology, and involves excellence in teaching/learning and participation in research and community service activities at the national and international levels
 - b. providing leadership in nursing and other health care areas, and
 - c. demonstrating cultural competence, which includes the ability to provide competent nursing care for individuals, families, societies, and the public.
2. Provide compassionate nursing care by demonstrating Christ-like service and modeling the love of Jesus Christ.
3. Demonstrate commitment to serving Jesus Christ by ministering to others with an attitude of service, in response to God's grace.
4. Demonstrate godly character and living by acting in obedience to God and communicating God's truth, health, and healing through word, deed, and attitudes.

Foundational Framework

UPH's understanding of Christ-centered nursing, grounded in biblical truth, serves as a foundational framework on which to build an understanding of nursing that is Christ-centered.

Four (4) key components in developing a Christ-centered nursing foundational framework are:

1. YPPH/YUPH Statement of Faith)
2. Biblical worldview
3. Key principles for Christ-centered nursing
4. Key characteristics for Christ-centered nurses

Biblical Worldview:

The faculty and staff in the UPH FoN program are committed to provide a biblically based nursing education. This biblical worldview informs and influences all of life, including nursing, and is revealed in the Bible in God's story of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation. As nursing is a practice discipline that relates to others, it is important to know and understand the Word of God in order to to know God, love God (1 John 4:9), and to understand how we are to love others and care for them.

Key Principles for Christ-centered nursing:

Persons

God created persons in his image (Genesis 1:26) and are unique spiritual and social beings (Genesis 1:27; 2:18) that have intrinsic value and dignity. A person is created to have a relationship with God (Romans 8:29) and live in relationship with God, self, others, and the environment. However, persons are separated from God by sin and that relationship can only be restored by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22-28; 1 Corinthians 6:11). Desiring to grow in a relationship with God, through Jesus Christ as personal Savior, a person has the potential for growth in godly living (2 Peter 1:5-9). The desire for growth arises from biblical principles (Romans 12:2). Therefore, moral and ethical values are based on biblical principles and do not fluctuate with changes in society and culture. As a unique creation, a person has three interrelated dimensions of physical, psychosocial, and spiritual (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Romans 12:1-2). A person has the capacity to learn, make choices, and influence life's events. These abilities enable persons to take action to influence health.

Health

Health is a dynamic state that reflects persons' ability and actions to alter demands and/or manage resources to achieve contextually appropriate balance within and across physical, psychosocial, and spiritual dimensions. While definitions may vary among societies and cultures, there is a common characterization of a state of being that includes peace, welfare, and wholeness. It is a state of

operation (internally and externally) in a manner that is consistent with principles that guide the function of the human being. A health imbalance physically, psychosocially, and spiritually will occur when demands exceeds resources. A lifestyle, which affirms the sovereignty of God in all of life's events, increases resources and facilitates health.

Environment

God created the world, including all things seen and unseen (Colossians 1:16). The world was created good, but was polluted by sin and is awaiting redemption by God in the new heaven and the new earth (Genesis 1; Romans 8:22). The world is under God's nurture and control and persons have been given stewardship of it (Genesis 1:28; 1 Peter 4:10). The environment includes the human community and culture affects a persons' health, growth, and development in positive or negative ways. Nurses are interested in persons' health and have a responsibility to care for and improve the environment, both the larger physical environment and the immediate surroundings of patients.

Nursing

Nursing is an intellectual, interactive, caring process with the goal of assisting person(s), families, and communities attain, maintain, or regain health balance. Nursing is both an art and science that is concerned with the health of the whole person (physical, psychosocial, and spiritual) and is accountable to God and to society for providing competent, compassionate care. God is glorified by a nursing practice that is based upon biblical truths and bears witness to Him as Creator, Redeemer, and Restorer of all things. A nursing practice that is based on biblical truths will demonstrate principles of godly living, as holistic care is used to address health balance issues of person(s), families, and communities in a manner that is congruent with the cultural context. Nursing is a ministry of holistic compassionate care, in response to God's call and God's grace. Nurses have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to promote a balance of health for the whole person by assisting to enhance resources and diminish demands. Nurses effectively utilize the nursing process as they provide care that promotes health.

Caring

Caring is the expression of attitudes and the performance of behaviors on behalf of others to meet human needs. Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of demonstrating caring behaviors (Matthew 14:14). Professional, Christ-like, nursing care develops in the context of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and is a learned process involving psychomotor, cognitive, and affective domains. This process of caring involves actions, thoughts, and feelings that assist people to maintain or improve present or future health balance. Christ-like nursing care requires a heart of compassion, a commitment, and a willingness to do the unlovely. Providing care is an act in response to what God

has done in Jesus Christ, and is demonstrated in the way in which the nurse communicates and delivers care. Aspects this caring also include the skills of critical thinking, decision-making, research methodology, and communication so as to gather, encode, and decode information to provide care to meet needs and maintain or improve present of future health balance.

Culture

Culture is the context in which nursing activity occurs. Persons have the capacity of creative intellect, with which they formulate views of the world (worldview) and shape cultures. Persons should be treated equally and with respect, regardless of their cultural background. Culture involves a shared set of values, beliefs, norms, role expectations, and social structures that produce a patterned, common way of life and reflects shared presuppositions about the world that shape a person's way of life. Members of a given culture share and follow these shared presuppositions as a primary means of making sense of the world and their place in it. In order to provide meaningful and acceptable health care to people, nursing care must be appropriate within the context of a given culture. Nurses themselves are members of multiple cultural systems that includes the nursing profession, the health care delivery system, and their own cultural system. Nurses adhere to standards of practice as outlined by these cultural systems and are accountable to the ethical and legal parameters sanctioned by the profession and culture. For the nurse with a biblical worldview, their value system must result from application of biblical principles to moral/ethical issues. God's truth is the ultimate standard for all cultures and nurses are ultimately accountable to God's truth, and at times may need to question ethical and legal parameters of a given culture when those parameters are against God's truth.

Godly living

Godly living is a continuous growth in faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (2 Peter 1:5-9). Foundational to godly living is a personal relationship, by grace, with Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). Godly living requires obedience and holiness (1 Peter 1:16) and is a way of living that is set apart and demonstrates a mind and heart transformed by biblical truth and grace. Obtaining true holistic health requires eternal healing only found in the forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God that is made possible by the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16) and living a godly life of obedience and holiness.

Key characteristics for Christ-centered Nurses:

- 1. Competence: demonstrating professional competency by contributing to the body of nursing knowledge, providing leadership in nursing and other health care areas, and demonstrating cultural competence**

2. **Compassionate caring: providing compassionate nursing care by demonstrating Christ-like service and modeling the love of Jesus Christ**
3. **Commitment: demonstrating commitment to serving Jesus Christ by ministering to others with an attitude of service, in response to God's grace**
4. **Character: demonstrating godly character and living by acting in obedience to God and communicating God's truth, health, and healing through word, deed, and attitudes**