

OREGON CONSORTIUM FOR NURSING EDUCATION (OCNE)

Curriculum Competencies

The competencies defined by faculty in OCNE partner programs are based on a view of nursing as a theory-guided, safety-oriented, evidence-based discipline. The competencies recognize that effective nursing requires a person with particular values, attitudes, and practices. Accordingly, there are two categories of competencies: professional competencies and nursing care competencies. **Professional competencies** define the values, attitudes and practices that competent nurses embody and may share with members of other professions. **Nursing care competencies** define relationship capabilities that nurses need to work with patients/clients and colleagues, the knowledge and skills of practicing the discipline and competencies that encompass understanding of the broader health care system. In all cases, the patient/client is a member of the health care team, and is defined as the recipient of care, considered an active participant in care, and includes the individual, family or community. A competent nurse provides safe care across the lifespan directed toward the goals of helping patient/client (individuals, families or communities) promote health, recover from acute illness and/or manage a chronic illness and support a peaceful and comfortable death.

Professional Competencies

1. A competent nurse **bases personal and professional actions on a set of shared core nursing values** through the understanding that...

1.1 Nursing is a humanitarian profession based on a set of core nursing values. As affirmed in the ANA Code of Ethics and other nursing literature, these values include social justice, caring, advocacy, protection of patient autonomy, prevention of harm, respect for self and others, collegiality, authority, accountability, responsibility for nursing practice, and ethical behavior.

1.2 Ethical dilemmas are encountered in clinical practice. Nurses are obligated to notice, interpret, respond, and reflect on these dilemmas using ethical principles and frameworks as a guide.

1.3 Nursing has a legal scope of practice.

2. A competent nurse **uses reflection, self-analysis, and self-care to develop insight** through the understanding that...

2.1 Ongoing reflection and evaluation of one's professional practice improves nursing practice.

2.2 Reflection and self-analysis encourage self-awareness, self-care, and self-regulation.

3. A competent nurse **engages in intentional learning** with the understanding that...

3.1 Engaging in intentional learning develops self-awareness.

3.2 Seeking current practice guidelines supports safe and effective patient care.

4. A competent nurse **demonstrates leadership in nursing and health care** through the understanding that...

- 4.1 Nurses take a leadership role to meet patient needs, improve the healthcare system, and facilitate community problem-solving.
- 4.2 Nurses effectively use leadership principles, strategies, and tools to improve systems, processes, and outcomes.
- 4.3 Nurses are competent in collaborating with team members when assigning, delegating, and supervising responsibilities.

5. A competent nurse **collaborates as part of a health care team** through the understanding that...

- 5.1 The patient is an essential member of the healthcare team.
- 5.2 Collaboration and effective team function are essential to successfully meeting patient healthcare goals.
- 5.3 Learning and growth within a healthcare team depend on providing, receiving, and using feedback constructively.
- 5.4 Contributing to a work environment where responsibility, civility, and accountability are shared among the healthcare team.

6. A competent nurse **is able to practice within, utilize, and contribute to all health care systems** through the understanding that...

- 6.1 Components of the healthcare system must be considered when coordinating or planning care and engaging with healthcare team members.
- 6.2 Healthcare systems use information technology for the collection and analysis of data.
- 6.3 Healthcare system-level thinking is required to develop and implement health policy to achieve health equity.
- 6.4 Improving organizational health literacy and expanding access to healthcare are essential to outcomes.
- 6.5 Responsible management and utilization of healthcare resources are essential.

Nursing Care Competencies

7. A competent nurse **practices a relationship-centered care** through the understanding that...

- 7.1 Patient-centered care is based on developing mutual trust and respect for the autonomy of the patient.
- 7.2 Social determinants of health must be considered in a patient-centered approach.

8. A competent nurse **communicates effectively** through the understanding that...

8.1 Therapeutic communication establishes a caring relationship with patients, families, and/or communities to advocate, develop, and facilitate care.

8.2 Accurate and complete communication with both patients and the healthcare team is essential to ensure patient safety and provide comprehensive continuity of care.

8.3 Successful communication requires attention to social and cultural influences and the use of appropriate communication tools and technologies.

8.4 Health teaching requires attention to the patient's and family's health literacy, cognitive and physical abilities, and community values and beliefs.

9. A competent nurse **makes sound clinical judgments** through the understanding that...

9.1 Nurses use a variety of frameworks, classification systems, and information management systems to organize data and knowledge for clinical judgment.

9.2 Clinical judgment is a process of noticing, interpreting, responding, and reflecting.

9.3 Clinical judgment requires use of the best available evidence, a deep understanding of the patient's experiences and cultural influences, recognition of contextual factors that may influence decisions, and sound clinical reasoning.

9.4 Clinical judgment involves the accurate performance of cognitive (thinking), affective (feeling), and psychomotor (doing) skills in the delivery of care while maintaining the safety of the patient, family, community, environment, and self.

10. A competent nurse, **locates, evaluates and uses the best available evidence** through the understanding that...

10.1 Sources of evidence for decision-making include research evidence, standards of care, community perspectives, a deep understanding of patient experience and preferences, and practical wisdom gained from experience and participation in professional organizations.

10.2 Knowledge from the biological, social, medical, public health, and nursing sciences is constantly evolving to inform best practices in nursing.