

Direct Measure of Program Values

Student Journals

There are some aspects of the SON Program Values that can be difficult to measure (e.g. courage, forgiveness, discernment). Faculty and staff in the SON felt strongly that while these concepts may be difficult to measure, they are extremely important to the formation of the professional Christian nurse. To that end, we are measuring these concepts through student journals.

The Curriculum and Evaluation Committee (CEC) continues to assess and evaluate the best way to accomplish this goal. This process is still fairly new, in that, there have been only two classes that have gone through the new curriculum, so evaluation includes working out the kinks. Initially, the program values were assigned to each level and were to be included as a "Guided Reflective Journal" as part of the clinical course. We are finding this to be "hit and miss". CEC is evaluating and will provide a proposal for faculty to incorporate.

Some barriers include:

- Lack of clear messaging by SON Leadership
- Lack of understanding by the faculty
- Lack of understanding by the student

A sampling of student journals provides early glimpses of the achievement of outcomes.

Inquiring Faithfully-

"...I feel that it is important to question the things around us. Personally, I learn a lot by doing the pathophysiology worksheet (which is probably why I write so much). I like to learn about new disease process and figure out different ways to help the patient who is going through this condition. This is a prime example of how I inquire faithfully."

"Today, I noticed that I asked my nurse more questions than I would have at the beginning of the semester. ..The highlight of my clinical day was learning about my patient's ethnic background in Israel. I was so fascinated by his life and perspectives.."

"My nurse, professor, and patient all pushed me to grow, to reason through processes and enhance my skills."

Leading Faithfully-

"Another example of me conquering my fear, was giving my first shot. I debated about telling my nurse for several minutes that I was qualified to give shots and to ask for permission to do so. I was worried she would say no, worried that I couldn't do it, that I wasn't fully trained or

prepared. Yet again, I stopped thinking about it, and simply asked and she was all for it. ...I learned that if I don't swallow my fear and go for it, I will be held back from some fantastic learning opportunities".

"As a nurse it is important to lead faithfully when it comes to family involvement...a patient needs all the support and care they can get. As nurses we must act as servants to our community, but we must also serve as leaders so that others will follow in caring for our patients".

"I am learning that courage is being confident in the person God created me to be and not being afraid to live my life out with the strengths I have been given".

Communicating Faithfully-

"Communication in the hospital prevents people from receiving improper treatment and allows two or more people to reason through a situation. Without communication skills, a patient's life can be at risk".

"For the upcoming semester I know that I will need to continue to keep an open mind about the good and the bad experiences, and how everything aids in my learning process, and also to continue to grow in my communication skills, and to continue to challenge myself to grow".

"I would really hope that my view as an RN is not to be a leader that takes care of everything on my own for the patient, but create the optimal care by creating a bond between the other work professionals and building connections to have a widespread and beneficial impact on the patient".

Caring Faithfully-

"Thinking back now, I think about Jesus and his action to wash his disciples feet. I was caring for my patient and acting as a servant. I was one of the only people who would take the time to help him thoroughly wash his feet, something he had been longing to do for a while".

"I want to get to know my patients so that when they leave it is hard for me to say goodbye to them...I learned that not only can we bring God's love to our patients, but God can bring his love to us nurses as well. It makes the care so much more genuine and real, and I think it brings life into the practice of nursing".

Following Faithfully-

"Through our group dynamics, I am able to be a faithful follower when I need help on some subjects. This requires me to be humble and admit when I am struggling because that is going to benefit me the most".

"Looking back, I should have tried to stay nearer to my patients room throughout the day sincere there were several people who met with my patient and it would have been helpful to

be there when the hospice nurse, doctor, and X-ray techs came in. I should have also made myself more available to help my nurse, offering my assistance throughout the day and offering to make her load lighter. In this, I would also be following faithfully or serving faithfully in my service to the nurse”.