

## **In what ways do nursing programs reflect and advance the mission of Augsburg College?**

The Master of Arts in Nursing (MAN) Program embraces the mission of the College and the four critical components of the mission---*education based in the liberal arts; the faith and values of the Christian Church; a vital metropolitan setting; and an intentionally diverse campus community*. This is reflected in the mission statements of the MAN and BSN programs. The MAN mission statement reads:

*Within the framework of a Christian liberal arts education, the Master of Arts in Nursing Program is designed to prepare nurses for transformational leadership and transcultural practice across care settings, with particular emphasis on addressing health inequities. (Graduate Student Handbook, p. 3)*

And the mission of the BSN program is:

*Within the context of the liberal arts and Christian values, the baccalaureate in nursing program (BSN) prepares students to uphold and improve health and human potential among persons, families, groups and communities across care settings with particular emphasis on health inequities locally and globally.*

Based on the program mission statements, ongoing program goals, expected program outcomes, and expected student learning outcomes have been delineated for the MAN and BSN programs that are consistent with professional nursing standards and guidelines. Accreditation of the programs and continuous quality improvement is based on the achievement of program goals and expected outcomes.

Furthermore, the four critical components of the College mission statement, including leadership and service to the world are upheld in the nursing programs in the following ways:

### ***Commitment to education based in the liberal arts...work and learning***

The discipline of nursing “lives” the liberal arts. As a practice discipline, nursing is an art and a science focused on caring and directed toward the promotion of health throughout the human life experience. The knowledge base of the discipline evolves by engaging students in several ways of knowing, doing and being in the world. Empirical knowledge and ways of knowing and doing are vital to any science and empirical knowledge is critical to nursing science. In addition, however, ethical knowledge, personal knowledge, esthetic knowledge and spiritual knowledge are also considered vital to nursing practice and nursing leadership in a global society. Other disciplines---the natural and social sciences, theology and the humanities inform our understanding of the ways of knowing, doing and being in the world. Literature, sacred texts, spiritual experiences, relationships with others are integral to a wide variety of practicum experiences that have been designed to prepare graduates of the MAN and BSN programs to be “effective, informed, ethical” citizens of the world.

Lifelong learning is encouraged by the basic nature of our BSN and MAN programs---they are both “career ladder” programs. Students enter the BSN after completing an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing. We have structures in place for students to accelerate into the master’s program from the BSN and to “bridge” into the master’s from an Associate Degree program, providing the student has a baccalaureate degree in another field.

***The way we are shaped by the faith and values of the Christian church...faith and learning***

Nursing students embody a variety of faith traditions. By far most students come to know God through the Christian faith traditions. However, some students are Muslim, Hindu, and Spiritualists, and some consider themselves agnostics.

Vocation is considered on several levels in the Department. On one level, a critical reflective approach reveals vocation in nursing to be used as an oppressive vehicle that has historically kept nurses subservient and under educated. On another level, vocation, is viewed as knowing, doing and being among people where one's gifts and skills can help those with the greatest health needs. Parker Palmer informs this understanding of vocation as "growing into our authentic selves" and all students in the BSN and MAN programs read and discuss Palmer's book, *Let Your Life Speak*.

***The way we are shaped by the context of a vital metropolitan setting...citizenship and learning***

The Augsburg Central Nursing Center is an example of the Department's commitment to the City. All BSN students and several master's students have clinical practicum experiences at the Nursing Center. Additionally, the College/Department staffs the Nursing Center with 2/6 FTEs of an Adjunct Faculty position and 2/6 FTEs of a full-time faculty position allocated to the coordination of the Nursing Center and to facilitating clinical experiences at the Center for nursing students.

Students are also embracing the City through other clinical practicum opportunities in both the inner City of Minneapolis and the inner city of St. Paul. For example, there are clinical experiences for nursing students at the Korean Service Center in Cedar Riverside, Ramsey County Public Health, East Side Community Health in St. Paul. In all these locations there are cultural guides and mentors who partner with students in their education.

Practica abroad and away also embrace connections with "the City." In Windhoek, Republic of Namibia, students are engaged in community health nursing (primary health care) with nurse mentors in the burgeoning environs of informal settlements that are springing up all around the City as more and more people come from rural areas to the capital city in search of education and work.

***The way we are shaped by an intentionally diverse campus community...globalization and learning***

Nursing students represent a broad range of diversity (learning styles, gender, culture, ethnicity, economic class, age), but the majority of students are still Caucasian Americans. We are, however, piloting ways to include more diverse students in our teaching-learning experiences. In July of 2006 we taught *NUR 562/WST362 – Culture, Gender and HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa* for the first time as an immersion course. Nine Augsburg students---PA and Nursing students---and three Namibian nursing students took the course together. The Namibian students earned credit through the University of Namibia (UNAM) and received scholarships through CGE/Nursing for books, transportation in Namibia, room and board at CGE for two weeks, etc. Additionally, nursing practicum experiences take students to Mexico, Guatemala and Nicaragua on a regular basis. These practica offer unique opportunities to explore formal

and informal health care systems and healing modalities from a transcultural nursing perspective.

The Department of Nursing also leads practicum experiences in Community Health Nursing and Culture and Health to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. There are many opportunities to collaborate to offer graduate courses in Pine Ridge to the nurses in the Indian Health Service and to offer BSN courses to the graduates of Oglala Lakota College, who hold Associate of Science Degrees in Nursing. We have already tested the video conferencing capabilities between Oglala Lakota College and United/Mercy/Unity Hospitals. Also, we would like to teach some of our graduate courses via immersion on the reservation next year.