How one nursing education provider is responding to the industry needs

The evolution of patient care and intense oversight of the role nurses play in our healthcare system continues to increase. As the level of patient acuity rises, so do the necessary skills of nurses on the floor throughout the hospital. Years ago, a medical procedure that required hospitalization for a week or less might now instead be treated as an outpatient procedure. A patient who was in the ICU a decade ago would now find him/herself on a regular floor in the hospital. With this transition of care, skills sets throughout the hospital have necessitated escalation to ensure patient safety and care. Nursing education needs to evolve with the infield demands of today’s nurse.

The Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) White Paper: The Future of Nursing: Focus on Education has certainly proven that the minimum of a BSN educated RN on the hospital floor decreases medication errors and deaths, thereby increasing the safe delivery of care. Further recommendations from this same report clarify the need for hospitals and healthcare facilities to increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree from 50 to 80 percent by 2020. This recommendation, along with a hospitals need to maintain or attain Magnet status, has driven up the demand for new competency-based nursing education.

In response to the industry trends and IOM recommendations, Beckfield College reviewed its entire educational approach that drives every decision in the Department of Nursing, and created a new mission, purpose, and academic approach. Faculty dug deep and wide to refocus thought, change the paradigm, and embrace the QSEN (Quality & Safety Education for Nurses) model while delivering an effective and purposeful academic curriculum that would generate student and graduate success.

The restructuring of direction took place in 2014 and was approved by the Kentucky Board of Nursing in late 2014. The outcome of this restructuring is the Beckfield College Nurse Organization Framework. This is a visual display of 10 core values that focuses on ensuring the application of competency-based theory to students, which translates into hands-on, focused, and high quality patient-centered care in the field.

This competency-based QSEN model of Beckfield College Nurse Organizational Framework’s Core Values includes:

1. Student-Centered Learning – Focus is on a student population, which is culturally, ethically, and socially diverse.
2. Professionalism – The accountable and responsible behavior of the nurse which incorporates legal and ethical principles and complies with standards of nursing practice.
3. Safety - The minimization of risk factors that could cause injury or harm while promoting quality care and maintaining a secure environment for patients, self, and others.
4. Patient Centered Care – The provision of caring, compassionate, culturally sensitive care based on a patient’s physiological, psychological, sociological, spiritual, and cultural needs, preferences, and values. Patients are defined as individuals and families.
5. Patient Education – The provision of health-

**NURSING**

**THE BECKFIELD COLLEGE APPROACH**

We are focused on ensuring the application of competency-based theory translating into hands-on, focused and high quality patient-centered care in the field.

**NURSE ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

Beckfield College offers:
- Competency-based QSEN model (Quality & Safety Education for Nurses)
- Highly qualified faculty teaching curriculum that evolves with the demands of the industry
- Nursing Simulation labs with patient simulators, enhancing our nursing student’s abilities to bridge the theoretical information to the deliverance of safe and quality patient care
- Increased ATI resources/NCLEX preparation for students
- No wait list for nursing classes or clinicals

**PROGRAMS OFFERED**

- Diploma: Practical Nursing (LPN upon Licensure)
- Associate of Applied Science: Nursing (RN upon Licensure)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN completion) – all courses online

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**BECKFIELD COLLEGE**

The Florence, KY Campus diploma and degree programs in Nursing are approved by the Kentucky Board of Nursing. The Tri-County Cincinnati, OH Campus nursing programs are approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing. Beckfield College is accredited by the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). For student consumer information, visit www.beckfield.edu/disclosures. Programs vary by location.
related education to patients that facilitates their acquisition of new knowledge and skills, adoption of new behaviors, and modification of attitudes.

6. Leadership – The process by which nurses use a set of skills that directs and influences others in the provision of individualized, safe, and quality patient care. Leadership activities include delegation and supervision within the scope of practice.

7. Teamwork and Collaboration – The delivery of patient care, in partnership with multidisciplinary members of the health care team, to achieve continuity of care and positive patient outcomes.

8. Informatics - The use of information technology as a communication and information gathering tool that supports clinical decision making and scientifically based nursing practice.

9. Quality Improvement – The study of care related and organizational processes with the goal of developing and implementing a plan to improve health care services and better meet the needs of patients.

10. Evidence Based Practice – The use of current knowledge from research and other credible sources, upon which clinical judgment and patient care are based.

The nursing shortage in the United States has been recognized as a challenge for years, and most recently outlined in a very detailed fact sheet, “Nursing Shortage Fact Sheet,” updated April 24, 2014, by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. With the baby boomer generation aging, the shortage of nurses in the field, and the increased requirement for RNs to have a higher level of education, attention to the QSEN model and updates to nursing education is crucial. It has been a privilege to work with a faculty and staff willing to re-evaluate and reposition what used to work due to the ever-changing industry in order to deliver the highest quality, relevant and successful nursing education.

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