

Dallas County Community College District

Mission

The mission of the DCCCD is to prepare students for successful living and responsible citizenship in a rapidly changing local, national, and world community. We do this by providing accessible, accredited, affordable, cost-effective, quality learning opportunities for development of intellectual skills, job skills, personal growth, and/or transfer to a baccalaureate program. In fulfilling this purpose, we further cultural, economic and workforce development in the communities we serve. In all of our efforts, the District strives to meet the needs and exceed the expectations of those the District serves.

Mission and Purpose Statement El Centro College

El Centro College: at the forefront of education, serving the community in an urban, multicultural setting.

Purpose:

In keeping with the mission, the purpose of El Centro College is to provide:

- freshman and sophomore courses in arts and sciences
- workforce education programs leading to associate degrees or certificates •
- continuing adult education programs for occupational or cultural enrichment •
- workforce development programs designed to meet local and statewide needs
- education programs designed to fulfill the commitment of an admissions policy allowing the enrollment of under-prepared students
- ongoing counseling and guidance designed to assist students in achieving their individual educational goals •
- adult literacy and other basic skills programs
- such other purposes as may be prescribed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or local governing boards in the best interest of post-secondary education in Texas

History of the El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Program

El Centro College is the flagship college of the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) and is located in the heart of downtown Dallas. It is an accredited, comprehensive, public, two-year community college that has been in operation since September 1966. The DCCCD is comprised of seven colleges, as well as the Institute for Economic Development, and the Center for Educational Telecommunication. All segments are teaching/learning and community-building institutions.

Time Line of the El Centro Nursing Program:

- > September 1, 1966 the nursing program began with an enrollment of 26 students and four faculty.
- > 1975, a satellite campus was initiated at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas. Thirty-two students enrolled in the first class.
- > 1976, the National League for Nursing granted the initial eight-year accreditation to the nursing program. Continued accreditation status has been maintained since that time.
- > 1982, Navarro College received approval from the Board of Nurse Examiners to open its own nursing program and the satellite agreement with Navarro College was terminated.
- > 1982, in response to the rapid growth of Dallas County and as a cost-effective means of addressing a severe community nursing shortage, a second nursing satellite program was established at Brookhaven College, in Farmers Branch, Texas.
- > 1988, the nursing program at El Centro College adopted an advanced placement curriculum plan available for licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) that desired to Bridge from LVN to RN.
- > 1992, due to the high volume of nursing and allied health students the Health Occupations Admissions Office was created as a separate entity for processing applicants for the nursing and allied health programs.
- > 2002, to help meet the student's clinical needs an innovated approach was introduced using Preceptors. This allowed faculty to help students develop increased clinical skills.
- > Spring 2003, El Centro's Nursing Fast Track Option was introduced, which allowed the student to complete the nursing courses within seventeen months instead of the regular twenty-four months. The first class had twenty students.
- > Fall 2003, a satellite program was established with Texas Health Resources to offer theory via live broadcast to selected students at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas and Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth. The first class started with twenty students. Currently, forty students are admitted each semester.
- > Spring 2004, on-line offerings were established for selected El Centro nursing classes. The first class had one hundred and thirty students. Satellite programs were established at Methodist Dallas Medical Center and Baylor University Medical Center.
- > Fall 2004, a nursing satellite program was initiated with North Lake College in Irving. The first class started with fifty students. The satellite site at Brookhaven College was terminated due to Brookhaven's application to the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners for its own nursing program.
- > Fall 2007, anticipated move of Allied Health and Nursing into the Paramont Building.

Currently, the El Centro Associate Degree Nursing Program is one of the largest in the nation. The El Centro Nursing Program has a widely diverse ethnic population consisting of more than 550 students with over 30 full time faculty, 8 adjunct faculty and 12 loan faculty from THR, Baylor and Methodist. Today, El Centro's graduating nursing class will join the community of exceptional alumni who are making outstanding contributions to nursing. Clinical experience for the student is offered in a wide variety of premier health care facilities. The El Centro Nursing Program has gained the reputation for graduating highly sought after nurses with top-level skills. Graduates of the program have historically achieved higher than 90% on their first attempt on the state licensing examination, NCLEX-RN. Employment placement rates for the nursing graduates exceed 98%. The success of El Centro's nursing program is related to the high quality of education delivered by the faculty and staff in conjunction with the excellent clinical affiliations.

The El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Program is fully accredited by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas (333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460, Austin, Texas, 78701. Telephone number 512-305-7400.) El Centro has received continuous yearly approval of the nursing program, many times with commendations based upon the NCLEX-RN results and the faculty qualifications. El Centro's nursing program also maintains continuous accreditation with The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (61 Broadway, New York, New York, 10006. Telephone number 1-800-669-1656.) In 2000, the El Centro Nursing Program was granted accreditation for eight years. The El Centro Nursing Program maintains consistency with the curriculum guidelines of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

<p style="text-align: center;">EL CENTRO COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING</p>
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Program is to prepare responsible, caring, competent beginning professional practitioners of nursing who are equipped to deliver optimal culturally appropriate health care services in a variety of settings to individuals and families throughout the life span in a multicultural, global population.

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

1. We accept the purpose and mission statements of the Dallas County Community College District and El Centro College.
2. We value the education of the student as our primary commitment.
3. We believe that practice of nursing involves delivery of care to individuals and families through out the life span based on humanistic application of scientific principles, promotion of optimal health, and dignified death.
4. We believe that contemporary nursing practice strives to empower individuals and families to receive quality culturally appropriate health care services in a variety of settings within a resource-driven health care environment.
5. We accept the roles and competencies of the associate degree nurse to be those of provider of care, coordinator of care, and member of the profession.
6. Graduates of our program practice in a variety of structured health-care settings.
7. Graduates of our program are eligible to apply for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).
8. We collaborate with the greater community of nursing and related health care disciplines in the design and implementation of the curriculum.
9. Faculty view the teaching/learning process as lifelong and remain expert learners in their own practice of professional nursing and in the development of dynamic curriculum.
10. Faculty join with the student in partnership of learning, modeling caring, intellectual curiosity, and respect.

**EL CENTRO COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING**

VISION STATEMENT

El Centro faculty will be the leaders in preparing our graduates to function in the 21st Century and to be the nurse of choice in the global healthcare marketplace.

Revised:
November 2006

*Educational opportunities are offered by the Associate Degree Nursing Program
without regard to race, color, age, national origin, religion, sex, or disability.*

<p style="text-align: center;">EL CENTRO COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING</p>
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PROGRAM OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES

At the end of the program the graduate will be able to:

1. demonstrate caring, competent, safe nursing skills, based on scientific principles, in providing care for individuals and families of multicultural backgrounds in a variety of structured health care settings in the community. *Provider of Care, Caring, Competencies (Skills), Growth and Development*
2. collaborate with individuals, families and members of the health care team in providing optimum health care across the life-span. *Growth and Development, Coordinator of Care, Continuum of Care, Health Promotion/Disease Prevention*
3. utilize management principles in the delivery of nursing and health care. *Coordinator of Care*
4. demonstrate effective communication skills in all health care settings. *Communication*
5. utilize critical thinking in the decision making processes necessary to deliver optimum health care. *Critical Thinking/Decision Making Processes*
6. responsibly practice within the ethical and legal framework of professional nursing. *Ethical/Legal Issues, Member of a Profession*
7. value the need for continued self-development and professional growth. *Member of a Profession*

Reviewed:
2007

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PROGRAM DESIGN

The program design of the Associate Degree Nursing Program at El Centro College is based on the belief that the individual is a unique product of environmental, cultural, and life experiences. The curriculum addresses the changing needs of the community and the health profession as well as the physiological, psychosocial, and spiritual needs of individuals and families. The following concepts form the basis for the program design: **ROLE OF THE NURSE**, **CONTINUUM OF CARE**, **HEALTH PROMOTION/DISEASE PREVENTION**, **COMMUNICATION**, and the **DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES**. *Growth and development across the life span, ethical/legal issues, competencies/skills, and caring* are unifying threads that support the concepts and are integrated throughout the courses.

The **ROLE OF THE NURSE** is defined as Provider of Care, Coordinator of Care, and Member of a Profession. As a provider of care, the nurse is humanistic, *competent and caring*. Nursing interventions are based upon scientific principles. Critical reasoning skills are used to implement safe nursing practice. The nurse, as a client advocate, uses delegation, supervision, and evaluation in the coordinating of patient care. As a member of the profession, the nurse's practice is based on *ethical/legal* principles and standards of care as established by our professional organizations and state regulatory agencies. The nurse is committed to a continuous, independent learning process which enhances professional growth and self-development.

CONTINUUM OF CARE, as a concept, involves the nurse intervening at various points in the life cycle. This care is provided across the *life span* to individuals and families in primary, secondary, and tertiary settings.

HEALTH PROMOTION/DISEASE PREVENTION is a collaborative process of motivating the client/family to achieve and maintain the highest possible level of functioning. To accomplish this goal, the nurse utilizes knowledge of *normal growth and development*, cultural and socioeconomic influences, community resources, the teaching/learning process and is able to motivate and empower.

Effective verbal and written **COMMUNICATION** skills are imperative for the nurse in relating to client, families, colleagues, and members of the health care team. These skills include interviewing, documentation, therapeutic communication, assertiveness, conflict resolution, and computer/informatic literacy.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES are both intellectual and creative and enable the nurse to think critically and make sound clinical judgments. Critical reasoning is an attitude and an approach to inquiry supported by a scientific knowledge base and enhanced by continuous opportunities for students and faculty members to examine clinical and professional issues. The critical reasoning/thinking process allows the graduate to adapt to inevitable changes in health care.