

The philosophical statements of Trocaire and the Associate Degree nursing program are presented below:

### **Trocaire College Philosophy**

“Catholic in tradition, Trocaire College is informed by the Christian belief in the innate dignity of the human person and a desire to further the growth potential of the student seeking the personal attention of a small College. We believe our commitment to education may be best demonstrated by excellence in teaching. We believe it is significant to provide a flexible structure in which students may explore their capabilities. Thus, they may become more fully aware of themselves, of their potentialities and limitations as they encounter the complexities of a rapidly evolving world” (2013-2014 Trocaire College Catalog, pp. 6-7).

### **Trocaire College Mission and Vision**

The mission of Trocaire College is to empower students toward personal enrichment, dignity, and self-worth through education in a variety of professions and in the liberal arts. Trocaire College recognizes the individual needs of a diverse student body, provides life learning and development within a community-based environment and prepares students for service in the universal community. The vision statement was developed by members of the faculty, staff, and administration and approved by the Board of Trustees states that “Trocaire is the College where lives are transformed. Our graduates will be the first choice of employers” (Student Handbook and Planner, p. 8).

### **Nursing Program Mission**

The mission of the Trocaire College Nursing Program is to be responsive to current and evolving health care needs by providing quality nursing education that is in keeping with currently accepted social, educational, and nursing standards and is consistent with the mission of the College.

### **Nursing Philosophy**

The Trocaire Nursing faculty accepts the philosophy of Trocaire College and its mission and functions within its framework.

The Nursing faculty believes that health is a dynamic and individualized state of biopsychosocial and spiritual well-being affected by environment, access to health care, lifestyle choices, education, and culture. Health is an individually perceived state of wellbeing that is positively valued, affects all aspects of life, and determines one's quality of life.

The holistic understanding of health gives rise to a view of nursing as a caring profession. The professional nurse recognizes that all human beings are unique individuals who have the ability to adapt to the environment. The professional nurse believes that human beings are entitled to be treated with respect and dignity and that cultural heritage and spiritual beliefs influence health behaviors. Health care is a partnership in which the patients share responsibility for achieving optimal health.

Today's professional nurse assumes multiple roles as *provider of care*, *manager of care*, and *member within the discipline of nursing* in meeting the needs of individuals and families. The professional nurse provides this care for people from all stages of life

and all degrees of need along the health-illness continuum. A background in nursing theory and knowledge from other sciences and general education is necessary for the provision of health care.

Education is a life-long process involving the acquisition of knowledge and the development of critical thinking skills. Learning occurs in various settings and should be self-directed, flexible, and learner-focused. The faculty view nursing education as dynamic and ongoing resulting in a change in knowledge, attitude, and behavior of students. Faculty believe nursing education requires that students develop a scientific and psychosocial theory base, communication skills, and the ability to apply the nursing process.

The Nursing faculty accepts its responsibility to provide an environment for a diverse student population that supports learning through a variety of teaching/learning methods, a curriculum that builds on previous knowledge and experience, and a learning sequence that moves from simple to complex.

The faculty encourage students to assess their own goals and to assume responsibility for learning.

The faculty provide graduates with the educational preparation to apply the nursing process in making critical decisions in their role as health care providers. The faculty prepare graduates to function successfully within the scope of their academic preparation and to make a commitment to the value of caring and to their own professional growth.