

### Abstract

In this piece my personal philosophy of nursing is defined in my own terms, and by the terms of my resources. These include text from my classes, online sources, and personal opinion. This philosophy defines nursing to my personal standards, and explains what being a nurse means to me. It will lay out how my perception has changed so far, and what I think it takes to be in the nursing field. This piece will also define some key terms that are necessary in being a nurse, and understanding the concept of the nursing career field. Lastly, it will outline my goals, and hopes for myself personally and for nurses all around the world.

*Key Words:* Health, Illness, Nursing, Nurse, Caring, Knowledge

### Personal Nursing Philosophy

My philosophy of nursing is centered around three terms; knowledge, dedication, and caring. The three terms engulf what I truly believe to be the center of the nursing field and all of its members. Not one of these is more important than the other, and not one can function without the other. Knowledge is defined as “Information and skills acquired through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject” by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. In my belief, knowledge is not only your skill set learned but also your conception of the skill and the meaning behind it. Skills are crucial in nursing to create a safe environment. Dedication is defined as “Wholly committed to a particular course of thought or action; devoted” by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Dedication is needed to be a nurse because you need to be a patient’s advocate; nurses need to be fully involved in every aspect of the patient’s health. Being dedicated to me is never swaying from your professional job, and always thinking of the patient. The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines caring as, “a disquieted state of mixed uncertainty, apprehension, and responsibility”. Caring is one of the topics that I believe engulfs all three of my terms. Caring is not only showing compassion for your patients, but also caring enough to put your full effort into everything you do, and to do it correctly.

Nursing means to be a great deal of heart. Being a nurse requires skills that not many people have, to put aside your life and become a friend, an advocate, a support system, and a provider to your patient. As seen in the article by Chitty and Black, “Professional Nursing, Concepts and Challenges”, in chapter 12 on page 275,

there is Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. This to me shows the psychological presence of a nurse. He/she must have all of the steps; basic physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization, before he/she can fully commit to the nursing field. To be all of these things a nurse must be comfortable in themself, confident in their skills, and prepared for various challenges.

Goals in the nursing field are what propel a person forward with drive to succeed. Being a nurse requires having attainable goals in their field, so they are always pushing for more. This engulfs continuous learning and teaching in the institution. Not only does this involve a nurse willing to learn, it involves a nurse willing to teach.

The definition of nursing has changed over the years; it has gotten some positive remarks and some negative criticism. The definition of nursing and what it takes to be a nurse is different to every person and should change depending on experience, drive and background. To me the nursing field is something that I have always wanted to be apart of and have shaped my personality around these qualities.

Kay Kittrell Chitty, and Beth Perry Black. Professional Nursing: Concepts and

Challenges. Retrieved from: [https://blackboard.unh.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-](https://blackboard.unh.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-3406770-dt-content-rid-4095162_2/courses/nurs500-01-201210/chap%2012%20philosophy.pdf)

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Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Definition of Caring, Knowledge, and Dedication.

Retrieved from: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>