The philosophy of the Imperial Valley College Nursing Program is congruent with the mission and goals of Imperial Valley College. The nursing faculty accepts, as major tenets, the identification, and awareness of the needs of the community, consideration for the cultural diversity of the population, acceptance of responsibility for providing the highest quality of instruction, and open access for all students. The design of the curriculum for the nursing program recognizes responsibility to student, community, college, and the profession of nursing.

The sensitivity of the faculty to the uniqueness of all students provides a framework for student learning throughout the nursing program. It is believed that students deserve the opportunity to achieve realistic educational goals consistent with society's postulates regarding upward educational mobility. Further, it is believed that upward educational mobility opportunities are in the best interest of nursing in the future.

It is the belief of the faculty that the practice of nursing is founded upon a broad base of theoretical and scientific knowledge. As a result of the faculty's belief, the curriculum is based on concepts inherent in nursing practice and integration of the frameworks of the Health-Illness Continuum, California Board of Vocational Nurses and Psychiatric Technicians Scope and Performance Standards. The unifying theme throughout the curriculum is the use of the Nursing Process in the nurse’s role as communicator, provider of care and patient teacher and the judicious use of skills to meet the requirements of individuals with common, well-defined health needs. Multiple opportunities to practice the art of nursing provides for the development of cognitive, technical, and interpersonal nursing practice. A wide range of dependent and interdependent functions are shared with other disciplines resulting in collaboration which is directed toward the delivery of the supportive aspects of health care.

Support systems are recognized as an integral part of student advocacy. Educational opportunities, which focus on individual differences in learning needs, are inherent in the design of the curriculum. Linguistic obstacles to learning are accommodated both before the student enters the nursing program and while the student is meeting program requirements. Collaboration with college personnel involved with the reading and writing laboratory provides opportunities for students to strengthen skills in oral and written communication. Instructor-tutors assist all students, and specific learning activities are available for any student who indicates a need for additional assistance.

In addition, it is acknowledged that cognizance of the social support system of each student aids in achievement of academic success. Therefore, the faculty and student populations endorse accommodation of student needs.

Student involvement in program development, policy making and program evaluation is a critical component of the program. The faculty and students work together, in shared responsibility, to effect a lasting change in student behavior which reflects maturity in the learning process.

The nursing faculty adopted five separate statements, which deal with their philosophy of nursing: Philosophy of Man, Philosophy of Nursing as a whole, Philosophy of Health - Illness, Philosophy of Environment, and Philosophy of the Nursing Program at Imperial Valley College.

**Philosophy of Man**

Man is a unique individual and is in continuous interaction within the environment. Man adapts to the environment by attempting to maintain a state of homeostasis. As a dynamic individual, man is entitled to dignity and respect. Man has the freedom to choose, and therefore, is able to accept responsibility for the decisions made and to participate in decisions regarding the plan of care.
Philosophy of Nursing as a Whole
Nursing is a practice discipline. Facts and concepts are integrated from the natural, biological, physical and behavioral sciences. By applying these concepts with respect and dignity for all human beings, nursing provides care and nurturance which focuses on human needs as they relate to the health - illness continuum. The goal of nursing is to promote the person’s adaptation, through health promotion and maintenance.

Philosophy of Health and Illness
Health is seen as the individual's bio-psycho-social spiritual ability to function with and respond to an ever-changing environment. As a dynamic function, health demonstrates the individual's adaptive response to internal and external stresses and the capability to meet basic human needs.

Philosophy of Community / Environment
Community is the scene in which integration of multiple physical, social and cultural diversities take place. Society is the mechanism whereby an individual exchanges and integrates information regarding these diversities with the environment. The individual and society with the community share similarities in that they evolve along a continuum from the simple to the complex. In addition, the faculty supports the premise that clients have the right to a safe health care environment.

Philosophy of the Nursing Program at Imperial Valley College
Nursing education at Imperial Valley College is designed to prepare nurses who can function appropriately in acute and chronic health care facilities to the level of educational preparation. The nursing process is used to organize education and practice in a systematic manner so that problem solving and critical thinking skills become an integrated part of each nurse's background and ability. Emphasis is placed on health teaching and health promotion as it relates to a variety of patient needs and practice settings.

Students who are preparing to become Licensed Vocational Nurses develop competence in providing basic supportive nursing care to individuals with common, well-defined health needs. They develop skill in the preparation of nursing care plans and participate in the evaluation and adjustment of the nursing care given.

Nursing Process and the Nursing Program Conceptual Model