



## 9 Essentials for the Baccalaureate Prepared Nurse

The faculty have identified 9 Essentials for the Baccalaureate prepared nurse. The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice (2008) are delineated from The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Task Force.

### Essential I: Liberal Education for Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice

A solid base in liberal education provides the cornerstone for the practice and education of nurses.

### Essential II: Basic Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Care and Patient Safety

Knowledge and skills in leadership, quality improvement, and patient safety are necessary to provide high quality health care.

### Essential III: Scholarship for Evidence Based Practice

Professional nursing practice is grounded in the translation of current evidence into one's practice.

### Essential IV: Information Management and Application of Patient Care Technology

Knowledge and skills in information management and patient care technology are critical in the delivery of quality patient care.

### Essential V: Health Care Policy, Finance, and Regulatory Environments

Healthcare policies, including financial and regulatory, directly and indirectly influence the nature and functioning of the healthcare system and thereby are important considerations in professional nursing practice.

### Essential VI: Interprofessional Communication and Collaboration for Improving Patient Health Outcomes

Communication and collaboration among healthcare professionals are critical to delivering high quality and safe patient care.

### Essential VII: Clinical Prevention and Population Health

Health promotion and disease prevention at the individual and population level are necessary to improve population health and are important components of baccalaureate generalist nursing practice.

### Essential VIII: Professionalism and Professional Values

Professionalism and the inherent values of altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity, and social justice are fundamental to the discipline of nursing.

### Essential IX: Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice

The baccalaureate graduate nurse is prepared to practice with patients, including individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations across the lifespan and across the continuum of healthcare environments.

The baccalaureate graduate understands and respects the variations of care, the increased complexity, and the increased use of healthcare resources inherent in caring for patients. Learning opportunities, including direct internship experiences, must be sufficient in breadth and depth.