Lesson Plan: Precautionary Principle in Ethical Issues in Health Care and the Environment

By
Prapapis Pitayapisut
Nursing Discipline
Medical Campus

Course description:

This elective course is designed for students in baccalaureate degree of nursing with the purpose of introducing the trends of ethical issues in health care and the environment. Students will analyze issues/dilemmas using ethical decision making models. Students will be acquainted with the process involved in advocating for change in the health care setting and the global environment.

MDC Learning Outcomes that are addressed in this course:

* 6. Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities.
* 7. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society.
* 10. Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment.

Learning Objectives: Students will be able to:

1. Define the Precautionary Principle.
2. Explaining the significance of using the Precautionary Principle as an ethical decision making model.
3. Applying the Precautionary Principle models to explore ethical issues/dilemmas in health care and the environment in their work settings/community.
4. List factors or activities that can promote environmental health in the health care setting/community utilizing the Precautionary Principle and present to the class before the end of the course.

Teaching strategies

1. Completing 6 assigned continuing education (CE’s) and 2 of students’ choice related to Health Care Ethics/Environmental Ethics Passing on post test 100% to receive credit.
2. Watching the VDO online: What is the precautionary principle and is it good or bad?
3. Reading assignments before the class:


   - ANA Ethical Principles for Environmental Health for Nursing Practice [PDF]
   gm6.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/WorkplaceSafety/Healthy...
4. Engaging students in field experience at Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center

6. Presenting on the assignment in Learning Objective #4 to the class before leaving the field site

7. Documenting personal experiences in a journal and sharing with at least one person who has no experience about this course and informing the instructor via e-mail about the feedback and comments

8. Completing the course survey before leaving the field site