



Position Statement of Associate Degree Nursing

Associate Degree Nursing education had its inception in 1952 as the result of a research project conducted by Mildred Montag. The project sought to alleviate a critical shortage of nurses by decreasing the length of the education process to two years and to provide a sound educational base for nursing instruction by placing the program in community colleges. In 1958, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation funded the implementation of the project at seven pilot sites in four states (Haase, 1990).

The number of ADN programs has escalated from seven in 1958 to more than 940 today with over 600 of those in community colleges (American Association of Community Colleges [AACC]; Allnursingschools.com; Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System [IPEDS]).

The intent of this statement is to clarify the role and value of associate degree nursing education and practice.

Graduates of associate degree nursing programs are professional nurses and are

- Essential members of the interdisciplinary healthcare team in diverse healthcare settings.
- Able to derive strength from their ethnic, cultural, social, economic and gender diversity, thereby enhancing the capacity to respond to the healthcare needs of a diverse nation.
- Able to collaborate with all stakeholders for the development of public policy, the delivery of quality outcome driven health care, and to ensure access to health care for all individuals.
- Caring, competent, and knowledgeable healthcare providers who engage in professional development activities in order to advance safe, effective competent care.
- Legally, morally and ethically accountable.

Associate degree nursing education

- Provides a dynamic pathway for entry into professional registered nurse (RN) practice.
- Is continually evolving to reflect local community needs and current and emerging healthcare delivery systems.
- Is responsible for instilling the tenants of advocacy, professional involvement, life-long learning, and leadership.
- Involves evidence-based practice which prepares graduates to employ critical thinking, clinical competence, and technical proficiency in their healthcare setting. References

Allnursingschools.com <http://www.allnursingschools.com/>

American Association of Community Colleges, One Dupont Circle NW, Washington, DC 20036.
(202) 728-0200 <http://www.aacc.nche.edu/>

Haase, P.T. (1990). *The origins and rise of associate degree nursing education*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 1990 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20006. (202) 5027300 <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>

March 6, 2006