*Advanced Practice Nursing: Essential Knowledge for the Profession, Fourth Edition*

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Chapter 2

Discussion Questions

Original Source: Chapter 1 of ***Stewart’s Role Development for the Nurse Practitioner, 2nd Edition***

1. What was the purpose for the initial role of the nurse practitioner, and does it differ from the role of the nurse practitioner in today’s healthcare system?

ANSWER: The initial role of the nurse practitioner was to provide care to the rural underserved population. Today nurse practitioners fill the void for health care providers created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act which added 32 million Americans needing health care.

2. Who are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)?

ANSWER: An advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) is a nurse who:

* Has completed an accredited graduate-level education program to prepare for one of the 4 recognized APRN roles
* Has passed a national certification examination that measures APRN, role and population-focused competencies
* Maintains continued competence as evidenced by recertification through the national certification program
* Has acquired advanced clinical knowledge and skills to provide direct patient care
* Has a practice builds on the competencies of registered nurses (RNs)
* Is educationally prepared to assume responsibility and accountability for health promotion and maintenance as well as the assessment, diagnosis, and management of patient problems, which includes the use and prescription of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic interventions
* Has clinical experience of sufficient depth and breadth to reflect the intended license
* Has obtained a license to practice as an APRN in one of the four APRN roles: certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), certified nurse-midwife (CNM), clinical nurse specialist (CNS), or certified nurse
* practitioner (CNP).

3. What are the master’s and DNP essentials, and what are they used for?

ANSWER: There are nine essentials that focus on outcomes and are for all master’s-level programs. In addition, direct patient care provider (APRN) education must offer three separate courses on the “3 Ps,” which are advanced pharmacology, advanced pathophysiology, and advanced physical assessment. The nine essentials are:

I. Background for practice from sciences and humanities

II. Organizational and systems leadership

III. Quality improvement and safety

IV. Translating and integrating scholarship into practice

V. Informatics and healthcare technologies

VI. Health policy and advocacy

VII. Interprofessional collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes

VIII. Clinical prevention and population health for improving health

IX. Master’s-level nursing practice

The DNP Essentials include:

I. Scientific underpinnings for practice

II. Organizational and systems leadership for quality improvement and systems thinking

III. Clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice

IV. Information systems/technology and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care

V. Healthcare policy for advocacy in health care

VI. Interprofessional collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes

VII. Clinical prevention and population health for improving the nation’s health

VIII. Advanced nursing practice

In addition, the DNP essentials also contain language that reflects the need for the 3 Ps and the expertise required for APNs.

These essentials are used to shape the education for the APRN and DNP.

4. Describe the NP core competencies as identified by NONPF, and discuss how students can attain basic mastery of those competencies.

ANSWER: The NP core competencies are categorized as follows:

* Scientific Foundation
* Leadership
* Quality
* Practice Inquiry
* Technology and Information Literacy
* Policy
* Health Delivery System
* Ethics
* Independent Practice

Student responses on how mastery of these competencies can be achieved will vary but should include activities associated with the program coursework.

5. What are elements of role transition from RN to NP, and what are you currently experiencing in this process?

ANSWER: Student responses may vary but should include something about how the role of the nurse practitioner is built on the foundation of nursing and integrates segments of the medical model to become the unique profession of nurse practitioner.

6. The concept of “nurse practitionering” has been introduced in this chapter. Comment on your responses to this idea.

ANSWER: Student responses will vary but may include information about it being a new concept that describes the role of the nurse practitioner. Elements included when nurse practitionering include authentic listening, empathy, negotiating, and going above and beyond when providing patient care. This concept is also the cornerstone of the Model of Nurse Practitioner Practice.