



PennState
College of Nursing

Message From the Dean

Dean's Update to Students for April 3, 2020

Dear Students:

We continue to be so proud of the amazing job you that are doing, and we know how difficult it is for you and for your faculty to maintain your focus using remote teaching/learning. We commend you for doing the best that you can do under these trying circumstances. We understand how emotional it is to deal with uncertainty and the terrible consequences of the coronavirus as its impacts reach into our lives individually and collectively. Truly, we are all in this together.

Never has it been a more important time to be a nurse or a student nurse. Others are turning to us for care and we are pressing hard against our Code of Ethics for Nurses to help guide us through yet another difficult time when resources are scarce, and needs are great. The formation of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the largest nursing organization representing over 4 million nurses in our country, was driven by nurses at the turn of the century. The founders knew that nursing, as a profession, was dependent on a purposeful code that set forth our professional ideals, commitments, and a non-negotiable ethical standard.

The current 2015 document is available online and at no cost to everyone on the ANA.org website. In the preface and in the afterword of the Code there are two statements that ring true, especially now. The first is that "the ethical tradition of nursing is self-reflective, enduring, and distinctive". The second is "the promise that nurses are doing their best to provide care for their patients and their communities and are supporting each other in the process so that all nurses can fulfill their ethical and professional obligations". I am now using my 5th version of the Code of Ethics for Nurses since entering the profession. Each version has evolved to add the social context of the decade. Though I most often go to the online version for a quick look or reference, you can see, my latest version of the paper copy from 2015 (attached) is already well-read and well-tabbed. I encourage all of you to seek comfort and guidance from our Code of Ethics for Nurses.

As we close out this week:

- We encourage all of you to continue to pursue your learning as we move into week three and edge closer to the end of our semester.
- We share news of a planned live streamed commencement where your degrees will be conferred by President Barron on May 9th (watch for the full University announcement

and details). We will share more information about a College virtual event later next week.

- We continue to look forward to a time when we can all be together again, but until then we will do our part to flatten the curve. Do not be disheartened as we see dramatic and difficult impacts over the next few weeks. We must stay the course individually and collectively; doing what is needed. It has never been more important than now to continue to move each of you forward in your learning so that you can be our future nurses, practitioners, DNPs and PhDs. Remember to make the care of yourself and your family your main priority.

Continue to let us know how we can support you. Our entire College, from our outstanding staff and advisors to our faculty, administrators and a Dean are all here in support of your needs. Please keep in touch.

In closing, I leave you with words you have heard before, but now may take on new meaning from A.A. Milne better known to us as the wisdom of Christopher Robin, “You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think”.

Be well,
Dean Laurie

