# National Academic Reference Standards (NARS)
## Nursing Education_2 nd Edition April 2017

▶ **Competency** An observable ability of a professional, integrating multiple components such as knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes. Since competencies are observable, they can be measured and assessed to ensure their acquisition.

▶ **National Academic Reference Standards (NARS)** Reference points defined by NAQAAE to outline/describe the expected minimum competencies to fulfill the requirements of a program of study.

- **Competency Domain;** Broad distinguishable areas of competence that, in the aggregate, constitute a general descriptive framework for a profession.

- **Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs);** Subject-specific knowledge, understanding and skills intended by the institution to be gained by the learners completing a particular educational activity. The ILOs emphasize what is expected that learners will be able to do as a result of a learning activity.

- **National Qualifications Framework (NQF);** A framework that provides a systematic description of all qualifications within the educational systems of the state and categorizes them according to a set of standards that determine the level of learning outcomes for each qualification gained. The NQF is used as a tool for benchmarking, quality assurance, comparison and coordination between the different qualifications.

# Attributes of the Nursing Graduates:

1. **Embody ethical and professional disposition committed to excellence, equity and sustainability.**

2. **Engage in person-centered care sensitive to the needs of individuals, families and communities.**

3. **Demonstrate integration of knowledge, skills and professional attitudes utilizing clinical evidences to provide safe and holistic patient care.**

4. **Display cognitive flexibility and reflective functioning when working with individuals, families and communities.**

5. **Advocate for and engage with individuals, families and communities to ensure health equity and promote social justice.**

6. **Exhibit creative and adaptive thinking within a changeable scientific social and technological environment.**

7. **Demonstrate effective communication, collaboration and leadership, valuing the diversity of people and communities**

8. **Identify threats to safety and develop strategies to minimize risk of harm to individuals, families and communities.**
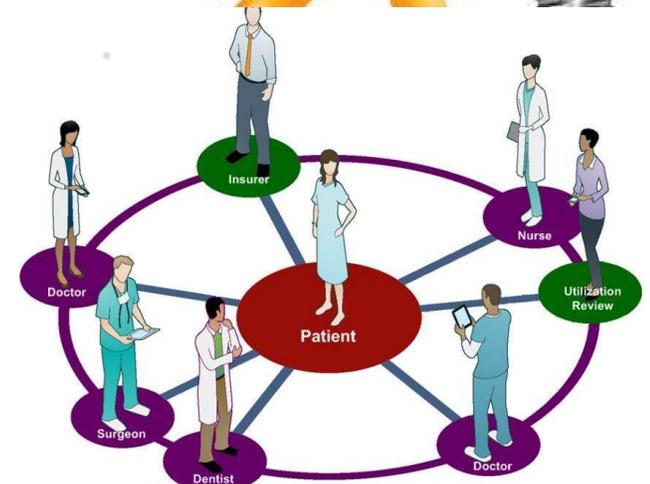
# Competencies of the Nurse Graduates

▶ Five Competence-Domains are included in these competence-based National Academic Reference Standards for Nursing Education. These domains are representing the role of nurses in the healthcare field. Each domain should be achieved through a number of Competencies ranging from one to three, with a total of nine competencies for all domains. A number of Key Elements ranging from three to six are included in each competency, with a total of thirty-nine key elements for all competencies.

## The competency domains are the followings:

▶ Domain 1: Professional and Ethical Practice Domain

▶ Domain 2: Holistic Patient-Centered Care Domain

▶ Domain 3: Managing People, Quality and Work environment Domain

▶ Domain 4: Informatics and Technology

▶ Domain 5: Inter-professional Communication

# DOMAIN 1- PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL PRACTICE:

▶ 1.1. COMPETENCY Demonstrate knowledge, understanding, responsibility and accountability of the legal obligations for ethical nursing practice.

# DOMAIN 2- HOLISTIC PATIENT-CENTERED CARE:

▶ 2.1.COMPETENCY Provide holistic and evidence-based nursing care in different practice settings.

▶ 2.2. COMPETENCY Provide health education based on the needs/problems of the patient/client within a nursing framework.

# DOMAIN 3- MANAGE PEOPLE, WORK ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY

▶ 3.1. COMPETENCY Demonstrate effective managerial and leadership skills in the provision of quality nursing care.

▶ 3.2. COMPETENCY Provide a safe working environment that prevents harm for patients and workers.

▶ 3.3. COMPETENCY Review health care outcomes in the light of quality indicators and benchmarks to achieve the ultimate goals of improving the quality of nursing care.

## DOMAIN 4- INFORMATICS AND TECHNOLOGY

4.1.COMPETENCY Utilize information and technology to underpin health care delivery, communicate, manage knowledge and support decision making for patient care.

4.2. COMPETENCY Utilize information and communication technologies in the delivery of patient/client care.

## DOMAIN 5- INTER-PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

COMPETENCY Collaborate with colleagues and members of the health care team to facilitate and coordinate care provided for individuals, families and communities.