



College of the Ozarks[®] Mission

The College of the Ozarks[®] has a successful program that addresses fulfillment of its ongoing mission to provide the advantages of a Christian education for youth of both sexes, especially those found worthy, but who are without sufficient means to procure such training.

Florence Nightingale Introduction

Born into a wealthy English family in the 1820s, Florence Nightingale (FN) could have chosen a life of ease and elegance. Her love for her Savior, however, compelled her to resist the social expectations of her day. Choosing not to marry, she obeyed her God-given call to nursing, despite strenuous family opposition that said she was throwing her life away to enter such “lower class” work. Led by God to minister to the thousands of wounded soldiers suffering under barbarously inhumane conditions in the Crimean War, Florence’s sacrificial service brought her worldwide fame. Yet fame did not deter her from her life’s work: rather, she used her influence to institute sweeping healthcare reforms. Eventually she elevated nursing to a respected profession for women.

C of O Goals

Florence Nightingale Outcomes

The goals of College of the Ozarks[®] address the College’s commitment to develop students in the academic, vocational, Christian, patriotic, and cultural areas. These goals include:

FN changed the character of nursing by developing well-trained nurses who sought to serve humankind for the high calling of “a noble art, a holy career, and an exalted profession.”

Christian: To foster the Christian faith through the integration of faith with learning, living, and service.

In 1837, Florence had what she described as her “calling” from God to do his work. The love of God spurred her to accomplish what others assumed was impossible -- she sympathized with human need and broke traditional morays to serve the poor and sick. Her primary nursing interventions were to pray with patients and read scripture with them.

Patriotic: To encourage an understanding of American heritage, civic responsibilities, love of country, and willingness to defend it.

FN came to renown during her service to England during the Crimean War. After arriving at the Barracks Hospital in Scutari (1854), Nightingale was revolted by the filth, disease, and mortality. Through her reforms of the soldier’s environment, soldier mortality was reduced from 42% to 2.2% in six months. The healing environment she created for the military included basic, natural principles such as fresh air, nourishing food, clean water, clean wounds (bathing and dressing changes), sunlight, adequate drainage (septic) system, distraction (writing letters to family), and a quiet environment.

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| Patriotic cont'd.: | She returned to England with a list of proposals for army and medical reform that have been implemented by military world-wide. She believed strongly in the humane care of the military as they protect national safety and security. |
| Academic: To provide a sound education, based in the liberal arts. | FN's greatest achievement was to raise nursing to the level of a respectable profession for women. This included formal education (training) for nurses. In 1860, the Nightingale Training School for Nurses was established at St. Thomas' Hospital in England. The school followed her model and eventually became the standard for nursing education internationally. Her best known work, <i>Notes on Nursing</i> (1860), framed the principles of nursing: careful observation and sensitivity to the patient's needs. Her definition of nursing was to "put the patient in the best condition for nature to act on him." |
| Vocational: To promote a strong work ethic, encouraging the development of good character and values. | The principles of work were the foundation for Nightingale's success. Additionally, FN advocated and modeled a character of integrity. FN's visionary educational and vocational reforms have influenced the nature of modern health care, and her writings continue to be a resource for nurses and health managers. Additionally, FN consulted on the first hospital built in America. |
| Cultural: To cultivate an appreciation of the fine arts, an understanding of the world, and adherence to high personal standards. | FN believed that nurses should have a well-rounded education, including the fine arts, classical literature, and travel abroad. Nightingale used music therapy to soothe the suffering of those in pain. She instituted reforms to bring beauty into the institutional setting by gardens, floral bouquets and paintings. |

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