The philosophy and organization of the Northeast State Community College associate of applied science in Nursing program Curricular Framework is illustrated in the above diagram. Central to the Associate Degree Nurse are the three roles of Provider of Care, Manager of Care, and Member of the Discipline of Nursing. In order to fulfill these roles, the Associate Degree Nurse must apply the eight central competencies as defined by the National League for Nursing (2000). Each of these central competencies is inter-related to each other and the three roles. Application of the central competencies occurs through using a patient-centered nursing process in order to promote holistic optimum wellness for the client (NLN, 2010).

The eight central competencies are identified in the nursing curriculum and achieved through the instructional process. Within this process are specific content threads that are congruent throughout the curriculum. These have been identified as:

- Safety
- Cultural Diversity (NLN, 2010)
- Community
- Nutrition
- Ethics (NLN, 2010)