

DEVELOP NURSING STUDENTS' DISASTER COMPETENCY* BY WORKING WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, The organization's mission is to *provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.*

This chart suggests Red Cross experiences that can help students attain specific disaster competencies that have been delineated by the International Nursing Coalition for Mass Casualty Education (INCMCE). Understanding community health and community resources is a basis for responding to disasters. The programs and activities listed are available at many of the local Red Cross Chapters and/or the Blood Services offices located across the United States*.

Interested faculty may contact local Red Cross chapters and ask about opportunities for their students. For more information, Red Cross staff or university faculty may also contact people included on the Resource List (web site) to discuss student opportunities and experience(s) with establishing a partner relationship between a chapter and a School of Nursing.

INCMCE COMPENTENCY	RED CROSS PROGRAM/ACTIVITY
Core Competencies	
1. Critical Thinking	Develop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a guide for student participation in shelters • a culturally appropriate bereavement guide • a resource for dealing with pets in disaster situation • a plan for populations with special health needs • understanding of roles of different players in disaster • develop tools to be used during disaster situations
2. Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do shelter needs assessment • Participate in ARC community event(s) e.g. Aid stations • Use/implement/assess WMD/T tools • Assess and refer special needs populations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Family Caregiving program
<p>3. Technical skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work with Blood Drives ● Take First Aid course ● Become Health & Safety instructor ● Teaching activities (BAT, FA/CPR/AED, Measles initiative, Need for blood donors, Family Caregiving, etc) ● Blood Pressure Screenings ● Health fairs ● Aid stations ● Participate in flu clinics/ mass immunization activities ● Data entry
<p>4. Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop/disseminate risk communication information: ARC Fact Sheets/Talking Points ● Teaching opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Together We Prepare for dorm/college/community/ special populations ○ Blood Services ● Participate in Mass Care activities ● Become a member of a Disaster Action Teams ● Develop power point presentation templates on specific topics related to disaster preparedness or response ● Write articles about disaster preparedness or response for school, Red Cross, community, or state nursing publications ● Help staff “Call Centers” ● Provide telephone reminders (Blood Services) ● Advertise Blood Drives

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network
Core Knowledge	
1. Health Promotion, Risk Reduction & Disease Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with disaster response agencies • Conduct assessments • Participation in drills • Work with Measles Initiative • Provide HIV/AIDS education presentations • Participate in fire safety programs • Participate in water safety programs • Teach youth classes (Basic Aid Training, First Aid for Little People, Scrubby Bear, etc.) • Teach hand washing class or Preventing Disease Transmission • Teach Family Caregiving classes (risk reduction for caregivers)
2. Health Care Systems & Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare Healthy People 2010 objectives with Red Cross programs and services (BP screening, CPR classes, heart health classes, HIV/AIDS education, water safety etc.) • Create chart or write article on ways that Red Cross addresses the 10 leading causes of death or the Healthy People 2010 Focus Areas (there are 28 in all.) • Research local Medical Reserve Corps and Red Cross relationship
3. Illness & Disease Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Disaster Health Service Protocols and research updated treatments • Teach Family Caregiving classes
4. Information & Health Care Technologies	Work with the CDIS (Community Disaster Information System) project; if local chapter is a test site.

<p>5. Ethics & Human Diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take/Teach International Humanitarian Law (IHL) course • Ethics awareness at Red Cross • Bilingual material dissemination • Translate material into other languages • Develop culturally specific materials • Learn about or help develop spiritual care services planned for mass casualty event
<p>Professional Role Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve on a nursing committee or Red Cross chapter committee • Assist volunteer coordinator with recruitment of nurses • Assist with volunteer orientation and training • Represent Red Cross at Student Nurse Association convention

**Please note: not all services or activities will be available in any given chapter or blood services region.*

Developed by the National Nursing Committee sub group at the October, 2004 meeting and using the International Nursing Coalition for Mass Casualty Education Competency Document found at www.incmce.org.