

**BSN Competency: Community & Population Focused Healthcare**  
**Nebraska Action Coalition-Education Subcommittee**

**Community & Population Focused Healthcare**

**Definition:** The nurse promotes and protects the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health sciences (APHA, PHN Section, 1996). The nurse uses an environmental approach to form the basis of population-focused services and programs, advocacy activities, research and public health education. The nurse recognizes that health promotion and disease prevention are integral components of culturally responsive community and population focused health care.

**Competency Behaviors**

1. Assesses protective and predictive factors, including genetics, which influence the health of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations (AACN BSN Essentials, 2008).
2. Collaborates across disciplines and with community partners to promote the health of individuals, families, and groups within the population (Quad Council, 2011).
3. Collaborates with others to develop an intervention plan that encompasses social and ecological determinants of health; levels of prevention; core functions, available resources; and the range of activities that contribute to health promotion and the prevention of illness, injury disability, and premature death. (adapted from AACN BSN Essentials, 2008).
4. Uses evaluation results to influence the delivery of care, deployment of resources, and to provide input into the development of policies to promote health and prevent disease (AACN BSN Essentials, 2008).
5. Participates in clinical prevention and population focused interventions with attention to effectiveness, efficiency, cost effectiveness, and equity (AACN BSN Essentials, 2008).
6. Advocates for social justice, including a commitment to the health of vulnerable populations and the elimination of health disparities (AACN BSN Essentials, 2008).
7. Demonstrates culturally appropriate nursing practice with individuals, families, groups, and community members (QUAD Council, 2011).
8. Uses evidence-based practices and principles of epidemiology to guide health teaching, health counseling, screening, outreach, disease and outbreak investigation, referral and follow-up throughout the lifespan.
9. Examines global and public health threats (i.e. man-made and natural disasters, epidemics, terrorism) as they effect populations, physical and socio-political environments, and preparedness (AACN BSN Essentials, 2008).
10. Applies clinical judgment and decision making skills with a population focus in appropriate, timely, nursing care during disaster, mass casualty, and other emergency situations.