

6.1 Program Model

The doctoral programs are built on a strengths model that capitalizes on human resources and geographic need. The strengths perspective is powered by a belief that “you can build little of lasting value on pathology and problem, but you may build an enduring edifice out of strength and possibility inherent in each individual” (Saleebey, 1992, p.7). Key principles of the strengths model include:

- Focus is on the student and faculty strengths, not barriers and deficits.
- The community is viewed as an oasis of resources, not as an obstacle to expanding educational horizons.
- Specific deliverables to meet course objectives are based on the person's self-determination.
- The student/faculty relationship is primary and essential.
- Assertive outreach is the preferred mode of interaction. In other words, online accessibility and interaction are valued and expected.
- Students are expected to grow, learn, and evolve as a result of the doctoral educational experience. (*Adapted from Rapp & Wintersteen, 1989*),
- Graduates will be empowered to connect regional and personal resources to meet the health care needs of the community. The program, built on a model of strengths and offered in an online format, will prepare nurses to serve as stewards of the discipline in education and research as well as innovators and change agents in the health care sector.