



Florence Nightingale Oath

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to
pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully.

I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or
knowingly administer any harmful drug.

I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession
and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all
family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling.

With loyalty will I aid the physician in their work, and as a missioner of health, I
will dedicate myself to devoted service for human welfare.

The Florence Nightingale Pledge is a modified version of the Hippocratic Oath written by Lystra Gretter in 1893. In 1935 Gretter revised the pledge to widen the role of the nurse by including an oath to encompass public health. This version is reflected above, however modern versions refer to teamwork and cooperation among other standards of optimal nursing care.

Following are examples written by faculty or students at nursing schools from around the U.S.



**California State University
Long Beach School of Nursing**

In dedicating myself to the profession of nursing, I solemnly pledge that I will:

- Uphold the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering as my primary concerns;
- Act in a compassionate and trustworthy manner in all aspects of my care;
- Treat my patients, peers and faculty with kindness, respect and dignity;
- Apply my knowledge, experience and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for my patients;
- Exercise sound professional judgment while abiding by legal and ethical requirements;
- Accept the lifelong obligation to improve my professional knowledge and competence;
- Contribute to a healthy and safe learning environment;
- Promote, advocate for and strive to protect the health, safety and rights of the patient, regardless of their social or economic status, personal attributes or nature of their health problems.

With this pledge, I accept the duties and responsibilities that embody the nursing profession.

I take this oath voluntarily and with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public, my patients and their families.

Faculty-written | Approximately 80 students

They have been holding this ceremony for 9 years.



**Missouri Western State University
Department of Nursing**

Nursing Student Pledge of Commitment

As I begin my journey into professional nursing, I pledge to use the guidance, skills, and wisdom passed down by my nursing professors and mentors to optimize the experiences and outcomes for patient-centered care.

I pledge to use my eyes to observe, my mind to assess, and my hands to do no harm.

I pledge to use my knowledge to provide holistic care, advocate for the patient, and to implement evidence-based practices.

I pledge to collaborate and communicate effectively with the patient, the patient's family and other health care professionals.

I pledge to provide privacy, preserve dignity, and exhibit understanding to each patient by upholding professional, legal and ethical standards of practice.

I pledge to use compassion as a mechanism of healing, to treat every patient as an individual and to always exhibit skillful practices to bring about health and wellness.

With this pledge, I accept the accountabilities and responsibilities that the nursing profession embodies.

Student-written | Approximately 60 students

They have been holding this ceremony for 8 years.



**Duke University
School of Nursing**

As a nurse, I commit myself to care for each person's needs in a holistic way that is both individualized and compassionate. I commit to serving both the individual, and the family, helping them attain and maintain optimal health and well-being. I will be accepting and will not judge an individual's values and beliefs. I commit to working collaboratively with other members of the health care team to provide quality, evidence-based care.

Student-written | Approximately 100 students

They have been holding this ceremony for 10 years.

The author of the pledge is Ms. Wilma Cordova, the inaugural ABSN student speaker at Duke University School of Nursing's first Commitment to Excellence ceremony in March of 2012.



**Indiana University School of Nursing
Bloomington Campus**

I hereby pledge before this assembly as a member of the Indiana University School of Nursing to uphold its core values of respect, responsibility, trust and dialogue. I will show respect for all people, recognizing the importance of their individual contributions and diversity. I will take full responsibility for my actions, and foster trust by acting with honesty, integrity, and openness. I pledge to maintain high personal standards and strive to elevate myself in the nursing profession through a process of lifelong learning. I will maintain the privacy and confidence of my patients. I will embrace diversity, be impartial and devote myself to continuously advocating for the safety and welfare of those committed to my care. To the best of my ability, I will serve in my practice with distinction.

School-written | Approximately 100 students

They have been holding this ceremony for 3 years.



**University of Louisiana Monroe
Kitty DeGree School of Nursing**

I Solemnly Pledge Myself before God

and in the Presence of this Assembly:

To have my patient's well-being as my first priority,

To practice as a student nurse faithfully and with compassion,

To elevate and maintain the standards of nursing,

To devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care,

To apply my knowledge, skills and attitudes to provide optimal
outcomes for all of my patients,

To support the Kitty DeGree School of Nursing's mission and
values, including human dignity, integrity, autonomy, altruism, and
social justice.

With This Pledge I accept the duties and responsibilities that
embody the nursing profession. I take this oath voluntarily with the
full realization of the responsibility with which
I am entrusted by the public.

Student-written | Approximately 40 students

They have been holding this ceremony for 4 years.



**Auburn University at Montgomery
College of Nursing and Health Sciences**

As a Nurse dedicated to providing the highest quality care and services, I solemnly pledge that I will:

- Consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns;
- Act in a compassionate and trustworthy manner in all aspects of my care;
- Apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for my patients;
- Exercise sound professional judgment while abiding by legal and ethical requirements;
- Accept lifelong obligation to improve my professional knowledge and competence;
- Promote, advocate for, and strive to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient.

With this pledge, I accept the duties and responsibilities that embody the nursing profession. I take this oath voluntarily with the realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.

Faculty-written | Approximately 375 students

They have been holding this ceremony for 6 years.



**Uniformed Services University
Graduate School of Nursing**

As I enter medical practice as a Nurse Practitioner,

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

- Commit to hold fast to the professional values as an APRN
- Apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures which are required, avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism,
- Resolve to be patient with the young, gentle with the aged, compassionate with the striving, supportive of the vulnerable, and to care for those in harm's way both on and off the battlefield,
- Maintain a balance between the use of technology and the offering of evidence-based care,
- Remain humble, admit when, "I do not know," and to call on my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery,
- I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know,
- I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure,
- Understand that excellent practice is supported by respect for my inter-professional colleagues,
- Incorporate the obligation of life-long learning to, advocate for and deliver the highest quality patient care,
- And may I always act to preserve the finest traditions of my calling, that I may long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help.

Student-written | Approximately 10 students

They have been holding this ceremony for 3 years.



Elmhurst University
Department of Nursing and Health Sciences

As a future nurse, I solemnly pledge that I will:

Consider the welfare of humanity and relief of
suffering my primary concerns;

Act in a compassionate and trustworthy manner in
all aspects of my care;

Apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the
best of my ability to care for my patients;

Promote, advocate for, and strive to protect the
health, safety, and rights of my patient.

With this pledge, I accept the duties and
responsibilities that embody the nursing profession.

I take this oath voluntarily with the full realization of
the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the
public.

Student and Faculty-written | Approximately 85 students

They have been holding this ceremony for 5 years.