

# To the Editor

I am writing to express my unequivocal stance against any narrative or assertion that nursing is not a profession. Such claims are not only unacceptable but also a direct affront to the centuries of dedication, education, and contributions that nurses have made to healthcare and society. The profession of nursing is deeply rooted in history, built on a foundation of specialized knowledge, ethical practice, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of individuals and communities.

While preparing for a move, I came across two significant academic papers that underscore the recognition of nursing as a profession. The first is a paper I wrote during my Master's program at Wayne State University in 2005, titled *Health Education is a Profession*. The second is a paper written by my late grandmother in 2002 for her *Introduction to Professional Nursing* course. My grandmother, who began her career as an LPN, later returned to school to earn her RN degree, as well as degrees in philanthropy and theology as a pastor. Her paper explicitly acknowledged nursing as a profession, reflecting the values and dedication she embodied throughout her career. These documents serve as a testament to the enduring recognition of nursing as a profession across generations.

As a PhD-prepared nurse scientist with an extensive background in nursing education, leadership, and practice, I have dedicated my career to showcasing the professionalism of nursing. Through my work with patients, colleagues, student nurses, and the broader community, I have consistently demonstrated how nursing is not only a profession but also a cornerstone of healthcare. It is disheartening that in 2026, we find ourselves hav-

ing to defend the professional status of nursing—a status that has been earned through hard work, sacrifice, and innovation.

Nursing meets all the criteria of a profession. It requires specialized education, rigorous training, and a commitment to life-long learning. Nurses are bound by a code of ethics that governs their practice, ensuring accountability, responsibility, and advocacy for their patients. Professional organizations such as the American Nurses Association (ANA) define the scope of nursing practice, establish standards, and promote the autonomy and development of the profession.

What would Florence Nightingale think of this current debate? The founder of modern nursing, who dedicated her life to elevating the status of nursing, would undoubtedly be appalled by any attempt to undermine the profession she helped to build. Her legacy, along with the contributions of countless nurses who followed, must not be diminished.

Nursing is a profession. It is a calling, a science, and an art. It is a vital component of healthcare systems worldwide, and it deserves the respect and recognition that it has earned over centuries. I stand with my fellow nurses in defending our profession and ensuring that its legacy remains intact for future generations.

**Sincerely,**

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Mentor, Faculty Member



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