2.1: Introduction

The goal of this chapter is to gain an understanding of the basic nursing concepts which will enable the nursing student to formulate a research question. It begins with the discussion of the definition of the nursing metaparadigm and its components. It briefly describes the evolution of nursing knowledge and includes the state of nursing science as it exists in the United States. This is followed by a description of nursing models and theories and includes examples to illustrate the different levels of nursing theory development. This is followed by a brief introduction depicting the relationship between nursing theory and practice. The basic types of research are described, as well as practical tips for formulating a nursing research question. An introduction referencing the influence of Western nursing scholars in other parts of the world is described. Tips for interdisciplinary collaboration amongst researchers with like interests and goals are put forth.