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## Journal of Professional Nursing

Volume 21, Issue 6, November–December 2005, Pages 364-371

Original Article

### Critical Thinking and Evidence-Based Practice

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.profnurs.2005.10.002>

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Critical thinking (CT) is vital to evidence-based nursing practice. Evidence-based practice (EBP) supports nursing care and can contribute positively to patient outcomes across a variety of settings and geographic locations. The nature of EBP, its relevance to nursing, and the skills needed to support it should be required components of baccalaureate education and must be introduced early in students' development as independent, self-directed learners and as professional nurses. Among the knowledge, skills, and processes needed to support EBP, CT is paramount. The development of CT can prepare nurses with the necessary skills and dispositions (habits of mind, attitudes, and traits) to support EBP. The intents of this study were to explore the importance of CT as an essential skill to support EBP and to describe some of the strategies and processes considered key to the ongoing development of CT.



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Critical thinking; Critical thinking dispositions; Habits of mind; Nursing education; Evidence-based practice; Nursing practice; Research utilization

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Critical thinking and evidence-based practice, = 24.06.-771).