Nurse leaders need broad knowledge about:

- Professional nursing (Bousfield, 1997; Ferguson-Paré et al., 2002; Pearson et al., 2004; Severinsson & Hallbeerg, 1996; Wolf, 1996)
- Leadership (Bousfield, 1997; Ferguson-Paré et al., 2002; Ferguson-Paré, 1998; Jeans & Rowat, 2005; Severinsson & Hallbeerg, 1996; Wolf, 1996)
- Philosophy (Pearson et al., 2004)
- Ethics literature and ethics (Silva, 1998; Storch et al., 2002)
- Group processes (Pearson et al., 2004) and team building (Gelinas & Manthey, 1997)
- Human and moral development (Pearson et al., 2004)
- Business and management knowledge (Antrobus & Kitson, 1999; Gelinas & Manthey, 1997; Krecji, 1999; Upenieks, 2003b; White, 2000; Wolf, 1996)
- Change management (Gelinas & Manthey, 1997)
- Team building (Jeans & Rowat, 2005)
- Leading a diverse workforce (Srivastava, 2005)
- Research and research use (Udod & Care, 2004)