Course Title: Nursing of Adults – Laboratory (57:705:304)

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: Nursing of Women and the Childbearing Family – Theory & Laboratory (57:705:301; 302); Research in Nursing (57:705:411); and Pathophysiology (50:120:347)

Co-requisites: Nursing of Adults - Theory (57:705:303) and Pharmacology (57:705:489)

Course Hours: By arrangement with clinical agencies

Course Location: By arrangement with clinical agencies

Faculty:

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Course Description:

This clinical course provides the student an opportunity to apply knowledge concurrently learned in the Nursing of Adults Theory course to supervised clinical experiences on general and specialized clinical units at area hospitals. Clinical learning experiences focus on the health promotion, disease prevention, and the restoration of optimal health in adult patients with acute and chronic health alternations. Emphasis is placed on providing safe and high-quality nursing care to adult patients with acute injuries and illnesses, chronic diseases, and disabilities while hospitalized and during transitions in health care. Complex relationships among patients’ altered health status, genetics, spiritual and ethnic backgrounds, and the environment are examined. Students, in collaboration with the patients and their families and other health care professionals, apply previously learned and newly acquired knowledge to provide
holistic, culturally competent, patient-centered nursing care. Concepts of pathophysiology, pharmacology, therapeutic nutrition, rehabilitation, and complementary/alternative treatment modalities are explored as related to patients’ alterations in health status.

Clinical assignments are selected to stimulate student inquiry, critical thinking, and independence as learners and emerging professional nurses. Using the nursing process, principles of evidence-based practice, professional practice guidelines, nursing standards of care, and the Code of Ethics students prepare and implement comprehensive nursing care plans and/or concept maps for adult patients. During planned and guided clinical pre- and/or post-conferences, students will explore selected topics that promote a positive image of the nursing profession and facilitate the expanded use of the nursing process, critical thinking skills, and scientific evidence in nursing clinical practice.

**Course Objectives:**

At the completion of the course students will:

1. utilize the nursing process, focusing on health promotion, disease prevention, optimal health restoration and healthcare transitions, to provide culturally competent, patient-centered care for hospitalized adult patients.

2. demonstrate critical thinking and inferential skills when developing, prioritizing, delivering, and evaluating nursing care.

3. incorporate principles from the natural and social sciences and the humanities when planning and delivering nursing care.

4. demonstrate therapeutic planning and interventions to promote comfort and minimize the risk of harm for adult patients.

5. identify the professional nurse’s role in quality improvement within the health care system to improve patient outcomes.

6. demonstrate use of effective communication, teamwork, and collaboration skills to provide safe and high quality interdisciplinary care.

7. integrate advances in technology and informatics to improve quality and safety in clinical nursing practice.

8. incorporate principles of evidence-based practice, professional practice guidelines, and nursing standards of care into in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of nursing care.

9. demonstrate self-direction and responsibility for independent learning in order to become a lifelong learner


**Clinical Experiences:**

During the supervised Nursing of Adults clinical laboratory, students will be assigned to provide nursing care to adult patients and their families. Clinical agencies used for student clinical placements include: community hospitals (i.e., Virtua Health System and Kennedy Hospital) and urban medical centers (i.e., Cooper University Hospital). A variety of medical-surgical nursing units are selected to facilitate students’ application of theory to practice in caring for adults who are experiencing alterations in health status.
Clinical Course Requirements:

- Students must complete all School of Nursing-Camden student health, criminal background check, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification, and malpractice liability insurance requirements to participate in the Nursing of Adults clinical course. Students with incomplete requirements will not be permitted to participate in clinical education until all requirements are completed and processed by the School of Nursing-Camden and the clinical agency. Each clinical day missed due to incomplete requirements will be considered an unexcused absence (See: Clinical Lateness and Absence Policy in the Student Handbook).

- Students are required to attend an Adult Health Orientation and Clinical Laboratory on Friday, January 25, 2013 from 8:00am-4:30pm (location TBD).

- Students are expected to prepare for the patient care assignment in the clinical setting in a timely manner each clinical day as directed by the clinical instructor.

- When in the clinical setting, students are required to be in uniform (including Rutgers student ID badge and name pin) and bring equipment necessary for patient care. (See: Clinical Performance Expectations - Appearance and Equipment in the Student Handbook.)

- Students deemed unprepared by the clinical instructor will not be permitted to care for the patient, and the day will be considered as an unexcused absence. (See: Clinical Lateness and Absence Policy in the Student Handbook)

- Students are expected to be present for all clinical experiences. (See: Clinical Lateness and Absence Policy in the Student Handbook)

- Each student is required to achieve a “satisfactory” grade on all written clinical assignments (i.e., care plans, concept maps, and reflective student logs).

- All written clinical assignments are due as directed by the clinical instructor. Failure to submit an assignment on time may result in an “unsatisfactory” grade for that clinical assignment.

- All written clinical assignments must be completed using APA format including in-text citations and a reference list unless faculty specifically state otherwise.

- Students must achieve a grade of 80% or better on the medication calculation test on the first clinical day (January 25, 2013), or, a grade of 90% or better on a retake test to achieve a “satisfactory” grade on the medication calculation requirement for all clinical courses (See: Medication Calculation Testing in the Student Handbook).

- Students are required to complete a self-evaluation of clinical performance at midterm and at end of the semester.
• Students must achieve a “satisfactory” clinical evaluation and a passing grade in theory to successfully complete the Nursing of Adults Laboratory Course. Failure of either 705:303 (Theory) or 705:304 (Clinical) constitutes a failure of the entire six (6) credits. (See: Progression in the Nursing Program in the Student Handbook)

• Additional multi-media resources are available in the Nursing Clinical Skills Laboratory on the 4th floor of Armitage Hall. Arrangements can be made in advance for additional clinical skills practice in the Nursing Clinical Skills Laboratory by contacting Dr. Kevin Emmons kremmons@camden.rutgers.edu

• It is expected that clinical assignments are the sole work of the student unless faculty specifically state otherwise. Students are required to follow the University Academic Integrity Policy.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**

The School of Nursing-Camden follows the University policies/procedures which can be found here: [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers).

Students are responsible for understanding the principles of academic integrity and abiding by them in all aspects of their work at the University.

The principles of academic integrity require that a student:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others.
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work.
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of unsanctioned materials or unsanctioned collaboration.
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.
- uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to insure that:

- everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments.
- all student work is fairly evaluated and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others.
- the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered.
- the reputation of the University for integrity in its teaching, research, and scholarship is maintained and enhanced.
Clinical Evaluation Measures:

1. Med Calculation Exam (Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory)
2. Participation in Pre- and/or Post Conferences (Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory)
4. Student Reflective Clinical Logs [6] (Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory)
5. Faculty Midterm Evaluation of Student Performance [1] (Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory)
6. Faculty Final Student Evaluation of Student Performance [1] (Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory)

Professional Practice Guidelines, Standards of Care and Code of Ethics:

Professional Behavior in the Clinical Setting:

Rutgers Nursing Students will demonstrate professional behavior during all clinical placements in all settings, following the legal and ethical codes of nursing. Professional behavior promotes the wellbeing of clients, significant others, health care workers, and self; reflects accountability in preparation for, and documentation of, continuity of care; and reflects respect for the rights of individuals. Professional behavior also contributes to the maintenance of a peaceful, non-threatening, and therapeutic environment.

Student behavior that is considered unsafe, according to the professional judgment of the instructor or agency, is cause for immediate removal from the clinical site and faculty review for continuation in the nursing program.

1. Contractual

The student must practice within the contractual agreements between Rutgers and the affiliating agency and the objectives of the specific course. Students must be dressed and groomed according to school policy and wear Rutgers student identification. Conduct and demeanor must be professional at all times within the agency and surrounding areas.

Examples of substandard performance include but are not limited to the following:

   a. failure to notify the agency and clinical instructor of non-attendance at scheduled clinical experience as outlined in the course syllabi;
   b. failure to complete immunization procedures as required;
   c. behavior which results in dismissal of student by the agency;
   d. any behavior resulting in a clinical warning.

2. Accountability

The student must demonstrate responsibility in the preparation for, and implementation and documentation of comprehensive client care.

Examples of substandard performance include but are not limited to the following:

   a. inadequate preparation for clinical practice resulting in dismissal from the clinical area;
   b. inadequate and/or poor written and verbal communication;
   c. errors in preparation, administration, and documentation of medications and other nursing procedures;
   d. failure to report to instructor questionable nursing practice that affects client welfare;
   e. attempting activities without adequate orientation or theoretical preparation or appropriate assistance/supervision;
   f. dishonesty.

3. Ethical

The student practices according to the American Nurses’ Association Code of Ethics for Nursing with Interpretive Statements (ANA, 2001); Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice (ANA, 2010); Nursing’s Social Policy Statement (ANA, 2010); and the Nurse Practice Act governing practice in the state where the clinical learning experience occurs.

Examples of substandard performance include but are not limited to the following:

   a. refuses assignment based on client’s race, culture, national origin, diagnoses, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or religious preference
   b. inappropriate behavior in any assigned activity related to clinical practice such as:
      1. falsifying documents, signatures, or assignments,
2. discussing personal and/or professional information within clinical agencies or other public places,
3. making prejudicial statements within clinical agencies or other public places,
4. not reporting known errors in practice.
c. ignoring unethical behaviors(s) of other health care persons which affect clients’ welfare.

4. Promotion of Health and Environment

The student’s practice assists in meeting the biopsychosocial needs of individuals, families and staff through provision of a confidential, safe, non-threatening, therapeutic environment.

Examples of substandard performance include, but are not limited to the following:

a. failure to recognize and seek treatment for mental, physical, or emotional behavior(s) which may affect the safety/wellbeing of others.
b. failure to follow through on suggested referrals or interventions to correct deficient areas which may affect the safety/wellbeing of others.
c. omission of appropriate care
d. abuse of clients, such as, but not limited to: physical, mental, or emotional abuse, failing to recognize or correct, or contributing to hazardous conditions or circumstances
e. interpersonal relationships with agency staff, co-workers, peers, faculty resulting in miscommunication, disruption of client care, and/or functioning
f. reporting for clinical practicum under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol

5. Human Rights

The student’s conduct reflects respect for the individual client, health team member, faculty, and self.

Examples of substandard performance include but are not limited to the following:

a. failure to maintain confidentiality of interactions
b. failure to maintain confidentiality of records
c. failure to abide by the appropriate patient's Bill of Rights

6. Social Media Policy

The SNC recognizes the important role of social media as a communication and collaboration tool. Students who participate in social networking are expected to abide by a common sense of respect for all persons and the policies described below.

Definition:
Social media are various types of electronic communication created and shared by users. Social media include, but are not limited to, social networks such as Facebook and MySpace, video sharing through sites like YouTube, photo sharing on sites such as Flickr, audio sharing through podcasts and other venues, professional networks (for example, LinkedIn), user created pages such as Wikis and Wikipedia, public comment on webpages (for example, allnurses.com), social bookmarking through Diggit and similar applications, blogs and mini-blogging (Twitter) and similar forms of information sharing.

Code of Conduct:
Professional standards of behavior apply to social media use. Students are responsible for the content they post or promote in any online form. HIPAA guidelines apply to social media and prohibit the sharing of identifiable,
confidential and/or sensitive patient information. Students are to refrain from accessing or using social media at clinical sites.

Guidelines for Social Media Use:

1. Patient privacy and confidentiality must be maintained online. Students should not post or transmit any identifiable patient information.
2. Patients should **never** be videotaped or photographed.
3. Students should safeguard personal information by utilizing privacy settings when available.
4. Anonymity does not exist; postings can be accessed broadly and indefinitely. Be aware that anyone, including colleagues, educational institutions and employers may be able to view content, regardless of your intended audience.
5. Students must observe and maintain boundaries with patients in accordance with ethical and professional guidelines.