MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING

NUR 832
PRACTICUM I:
PRIMARY CARE FOR
OLDER ADULTS

COURSE SYLLABUS
FALL 2002

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Office Hours By Appointment

Class Time:  Thursday from 0930 – 1130
East Lansing:  A 214 Life Sciences Building

Credits: 6

MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution
COURSE DESCRIPTION

NUR 832 focuses on the integration of assessment, the nursing process and applied theory in primary care management of older clients. This course will assist the APN student with integration and application of assessment and management skills utilizing a collaborative model of primary care practice. Relevant conceptual and theoretical frameworks in the primary care management of older adults are threaded throughout all class discussions. Emphasis is on developing skills in health promotion, health maintenance, risk reduction strategies, management of common single acute conditions and understanding the basic health care needs of older adults. The student will become increasingly independent in their clinical decision-making skills and ability to manage older adult health concerns in a practice setting. Documentation will be completed in the problem oriented format to facilitate organization of client data.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Textbooks from previous graduate nursing courses will serve as reference resources.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Provide competent health promotion, disease prevention and risk assessment services to older clients based on age, gender, health risk, ethnicity, cultural background and level of function.

2. Apply appropriate medical and nursing diagnostic and therapeutic interventions to manage older client’s functional health and acute illnesses in a primary care setting.

3. Integrate applicable conceptual and theoretical frameworks in the development of a comprehensive management plan for older adults that include self-care and functional status determinants.

4. Communicate accurate and complete client data as evidenced by appropriate documentation including relevant individual and family assessment and medical and nursing management plans.

5. Demonstrate progression in the level of decision making from preceptor directed to student directed with preceptor validation.

6. Demonstrate professional development by initiating strategies for interdisciplinary team functioning with awareness of professional, ethical, legal and political issues.

7. Critically evaluate outcomes and effectiveness of care.

8. Begin development and application of a personal practice philosophy related to patient encounters in a primary care setting.
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

As adult learners, it is expected that students will do relevant reading and study prior to clinic and class on the topic areas identified. Faculty directed readings and web links will be provided for specific content areas. It is expected that students will search the literature and suggest/share relevant findings with faculty and classmates. Case presentations, peer review, specific topic presentation and other methods determined by the faculty will be the basis for this guided cooperative discussion. Guidelines for class interactions and specific methodology are located in BlackBoard, Course Documents.

Clinical Experience

- All students participate in 16 hours of clinical per week for 14 weeks at designated agencies. The agency experience is guided by the clinical preceptor at that agency. Clinical faculty in the college are available for consultation, assistance and evaluation. If at any time a student is deemed clinically or ethically unsafe by preceptor or faculty, the student will be reported to the appropriate college administrator and action will be taken.

- Students will provide direct services to adult clients and their families concerning well care, health maintenance and promotion, level of function and management of single acute illness. The majority of the caseload should be individuals over the age of 50.

- Students are responsible for increasing independence in collecting and determining:
  - Client history and physical examination
  - Management plan including nursing and medical interventions
  - Nursing and medical diagnoses
  - Recording on the patient record using the SOAP-POR method

- Documentation will be completed on every client encounter. The student will begin to generate outcome criteria for each management plan and form a master problem list and up to date medication list. All documentation will include:
  - Subjective data
  - Objective data
  - Assessment data
  - Medical diagnoses
  - Nursing diagnoses (only those appropriate & that truly represent non-medical)
  - Management Plan
    - Diagnostic studies (lab, special studies, radiographic, etc)
    - Non-pharmacologic interventions (education, counseling, NIC/NOC when appropriate, etc)
    - Pharmacologic interventions
    - Patient teaching
    - Expected outcomes
    - Referral
    - Follow up
Clinic Activity Log

- This log will be utilized beginning in NUR 832 and carried through to NUR 834. The log helps all interested participants in the clinic experience understand what skill, technique or experience has been accomplished or needs to be accomplished.

- The log must be updated and validate on a daily basis to be kept current and accurate.

- The log is an excellent documentation tool that students can use in portfolio development and in seeking future advanced practice nursing employment.

- The actual tool can be found in BlackBoard, Course Information.

Caseload Data

- This section includes the Client # Log and the Client Encounter Log (both can be found in BlackBoard, Course Information).

- Students are required to collect and record data on every client seen. Data logs will be reviewed during midterm and finals week and at any time during the course of the semester. Both logs should be brought to class every week so faculty can review the information.

Web-Based Activities

- We are utilizing BlackBoard (BB) as the basis for this course. BB is a web-based classroom experience that allows material to be up to date with easy access. It is the individual students responsibility to learn how to work through the system.

- Weekly readings, course information and forms, course documents, activities, grades and discussion board are all located in BB. It is strongly suggested that you check into BB on a frequent basis at it is the students responsibility to be present and active in the course.

- Access to BB is through the College of Nursing web page and then accessing NUR 832 course syllabus. Another route is http://www.blackboard.msu.edu Access requires use of your MSU pilot account.

- Guiding Principles have been developed for the use of the Discussion Board and email. You will find this document in BB, Course Information. Please be sure that you are very familiar with these principles.
COMMUNICATION DEVICES

All communication devices are to be turned off during the entire course time. If you need to be reached for an emergency, you may give the College of Nursing main office number and emergency messages will be delivered to you by support staff.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Weekly attendance at clinical conference is MANDATORY! Additional student responsibilities and expectations can be found at BlackBoard, Course Information. It is the student’s responsibility to understand what the expectations are for successful completion of the course.

Students are expected to enter NUR 832 with adequate physical assessment and documentation skills for the advanced practice level. Additionally, a comprehensive knowledge base in pharmacology and pathophysiology is expected. Remediation at this level will be done independently (with faculty approval and guidance) prior to re-enrollment in the clinical course sequence.

Immunizations, licensure and CPR must be current and up to date or the student will not be able to participate in the clinical experience. If this occurs, the student will have to drop out of the current course sequence and seek re-enrollment the following fall.

COURSE EVALUATION & GRADING

A grade of 3.0 (80%) must be achieved in order to pass NUR 832 and progress in the nursing program. The MSU 4.0 grading system will be utilized to report final course grades.

Points will be rounded to whole numbers using the 0.5 rule. Points at ≥ 0.5 will be rounded up while those < 0.5 will be rounded down to the nearest whole number.

The following point scale will be used for final grade determination:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANGE</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>188</td>
<td>to</td>
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<tr>
<td>174</td>
<td>to</td>
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<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>to</td>
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<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>to</td>
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<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>to</td>
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Point Determination Will Be As Follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Evaluation</td>
<td>130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Activities</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encounter &amp; Activity Logs</td>
<td>P/F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total = 200

A clinical evaluation form will be completed by the student and the course coordinator at midterm and at the conclusion of clinical. The rating at midterm is expected to be at a low level since it is highly unlikely that a student will be meeting end course objectives at this time. The midterm point totals are utilized to help identify areas that need work. The midterm evaluation is NOT used to calculate the final grade. Only the rating on the final evaluation will be used to determine the course grade.

The final evaluation will count for a possible 130 points toward the final grade. The student is expected to provide rationale/evidence for their self rating if it exceeds a #2. The course coordinators evaluation will be used to calculate the final grade. If there is a discrepancy, the student must provide documentation. The final grade decision is determined by the course coordinator.

If the Clinic Activity Log, Encounter Logs or Course Activities are NOT COMPLETED in an ACCEPTABLE MANNER (spelling, accurate & appropriate abbreviations & medical terminology, etc), the student will not pass the course regardless of their performance in the clinical setting. All course forms and materials must be completed in a timely fashion and be presented in a legible, organized manner.