MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING

NUR 215

CORE COMPETENCIES IN NURSING 1

COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall 2002

Credits: 1
Thursdays 10:20am – 12:10pm

Course Chairs:
Carol Vermeesch, RN, MSN
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Office Hours: By Appt.
Kathy Lombard, RN, MSN
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NUR 215

Title

Core Competencies in Nursing I

Credit

1 Credit (1:0): This course will meet every other week for two hours per class period throughout fall semester. Self-assessment will be conducted during spring semester.

Instructional Model

Lecture, class discussion, case studies and small group discussions will be utilized throughout this course.

Course Overview

This course introduces the beginning student to the concepts basic to the development of professional nursing practice including safety, mobility, infection control, pharmicokenetics, biological integrity, therapeutic relationship, nursing professional role, and clinical decision making.

Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Apply natural, social, and nursing sciences to beginning level nursing practice.

2. Use beginning level clinical decision making skills to examine case studies and clinical experiences.

3. Demonstrate the values and behaviors consistent with the emergent professional nurse.

4. Use critical thinking to examine legal, ethical and cultural problems in nursing care and societal health.
Grading

Pass/No Pass
(attendance to all classes is mandatory to pass) In the case of illness resulting in absence a healthcare provider’s statement may be required at the discretion of the course instructor. If the course instructor cannot be reached, the student is expected to call the College of Nursing Office (355-6524) and leave a message regarding the reason for the absence.

Content

Course content will include:

**Week 1: (August 29th 10:20a.m.-12:10p.m.)**

- Orientation
- Critical Thinking Process Test
- History of Nursing and Nursing Roles

**Week 2: (September 15th 10:20a.m.-12:10p.m.)**

- Standards of practice
  1. Code for Nurses
  2. Code of Ethics
  3. Professional accountability

**Week 3-4: (September 26th & October 10th 10:20a.m.-12:10p.m.)**

- Therapeutic Communication

**Week 5: (October 24th 10:20a.m.-12:10p.m.)**

- Teaching and Learning Fundamentals

**Week 6-7: (November 7th & 21st 10:20a.m.-12:10p.m.)**

- Introduction to Critical Thinking

- Nursing Process and Classification systems

**Week 8: (December 5th 10:20a.m.-11:20a.m.) Only One hour**

- Review
Methods of Evaluation

ERI Exams Fundamental I  (This self assessment test will be given April 10th 2003)
In-class case studies

Required Resources

All current nursing and related courses texts.

Course Faculty

Carol Vermeesch RN, MSN       Kathy Lombard
A205 Life Sciences             TBD
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Course Policies

a. Student Evaluation: pass/fail
b. Attendance at all class sessions for the entire session will be mandatory, as will as participation in the class activities.
c. Earning a pass grade at the completion of this course is mandatory in order to continue nursing program.
d. Academic Dishonesty- Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If these practices are observed or suspected in any form, the student will be reported to the appropriate authorities for disciplinary action. A course grade of 0.0 may be issued.

Communication Devices

All electronic communication devices are to be turned off while students are in class.

Overview of CAPs and the remediation process

One of the ways that professional nursing assesses critical thinking and clinical decision making in nursing care is through the state board examinations, referred to as the NCLEX. The core competency series of nursing courses (NUR 215, 315 and 415) are designed to enhance students understanding and application practice with critical thinking skills in nursing throughout the nursing program. The courses will use increasingly complex situations and models of critical thinking. Students will practice these thinking and problem solving skills through a variety of methods, including case studies, practice test questions and discussion.
In addition to practice provided in the Core Competency courses, students will use self-evaluation tools and remediation programs provided by Educational Resources, Inc (ERI). These resources include nursing subject area examinations, referred to as Comprehensive Achievement Profiles (CAP), subject area remediation materials in the form of CD ROMs (housed in the media lab) and remediation activities that can be found on the ERI website.

Selected CAP tests are required for all students, and will be given in the context of their Core Competency courses. These examinations are selected by faculty to give the students a method of self-assessment of their performance on an examination in a given subject area. Because these exams are self-assessment, they should be used by the students to help them identify areas where they need to focus additional attention. Each CAP gives the student a detailed breakdown about their performance on a variety of areas, including the areas used in the NCLEX test plan. The assessment profile tells you your score on application of the nursing process, areas of client care, critical thinking and areas specific to the nursing subject area (See attached sample).

The MSU College of Nursing has adopted a standard for performance on the CAPs. This standard provides students and faculty with objective criterions against which to give advise for remediation. Students are required to engage in remediation if they score less than 2 points above the National average on four or more areas of the CAP, or in their total score (this standard applies to the NUR 415 exams, however, see syllabi for specific instructions regarding remediation).

Students will use the CAPs for focused remediation activities. Students can use a variety of methods to review materials. The ERI website will provide students with specific page numbers in their textbook that refer to the area of weakness. In addition, students may access materials housed in the Media lab relevant to their study. Of course, students might also do independent study at the library, review texts and consultation with faculty, both in class and in clinical. After any given CAP, students will have up to 2 weeks to review the necessary materials prior to a retest.

Students requiring remediation must re-test in the problem subject using another set of tests available from the ERI website. These tests are called RN-Enhancer exams (except for Pathophysiology—see NUR 315 Syllabi for details). The Enhancer exams are available on the ERI website for students to practice on as often as they wish. The website will give the students discussion about each question. However, students must take their final enhancer exam in the media lab, and print their results for their Core Competency faculty within the 2-week time in order to pass the core competency courses.