Michigan State University
College of Nursing

NUR 315
Core Competency in Nursing

Course Syllabus
Fall/Spring 2002-2003

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Section 1: Thursday 8-9:50 AM

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Section 2: Thursday 1:50-3:40

Credits: 1
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Course Overview

Course Description

NUR 315 is a junior level nursing seminar that assesses core level nursing competencies at the intermediate level of nursing practice. The course integrates concepts from the natural, social and nursing sciences. Students meet for a total of 15 hours during the Fall 2002 and Spring 2003 semesters. This is a year long seminar with the grade for the credit submitted after successful completion of both semesters. Attendance is mandatory.

Course Objectives

After completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Integrate natural, social and nursing sciences related to clients and families with complex health problems.
2. Use intermediate level clinical decision making skills and the research process to evaluate case studies and clinical experiences.
3. Critically evaluate and demonstrate the values and behaviors necessary in the professional nursing role.
4. Use critical thinking and research process to examine legal, ethical and cultural problems in nursing care and societal health.
5. Complete standardized self assessment materials (Comprehensive Achievement Profiles) related to junior level nursing content.

Overview of Comprehensive Achievement Profiles (CAP)

NUR 315 is designed to enhance students' understanding and application practice with critical thinking skills in nursing. The course 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 course, students will use self-evaluation tools and remediation programs provided by Education 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 the course. These examinations are selected by faculty to give the students a method of self-assessment of their performance in a given subject area. Because these exams are self-assessment, they should be used by students to help identify areas that need additional attention. Each CAP gives students a detailed breakdown about their performance on a variety of areas, including the
areas used in the NCLEX test plan. One of the ways that professional nursing assesses critical thinking and clinical decision making in nursing care is through the NCLEX, also referred to as the State Board Examination. The assessment profile in NUR 315 gives the student a score on application of the nursing process, areas of client care, and critical thinking in the following areas: Pharmacology, Pathophysiology, Maternal Health, Pediatrics and Care of the Adult Client.

The MSU College of Nursing has adopted a standard for performance on the CAPs. This standard provides the students and faculty with objective criterions against which to give advice for remediation. Students are required to engage in remediation if they score less than 2 points about the National average on four or more areas of the CAP.

Students will use the CAPs for focused remediation activities, and can use a variety of methods to review materials. The ERI website will provide students with specific page numbers in the textbook that refer to the area of need. In addition, students may access relevant materials housed in the Media Lab. Students may also do independent study at the library, review texts and consult with faculty. After any given CAP, students who require remediation will have up to 2 weeks to review the necessary materials prior to a re-test. Students requiring remediation must re-test in the appropriate subject using another set of tests available from the ERI website. These tests are called RN-Enhancer exams (except for Pathophysiology). The Enhancer exams are available on the ERI website for students to practice on as often as desired. The website will discuss each question. However, students who require remediation must take their final enhancer exam in the media lab, and print results for the NUR 315 faculty within 2 weeks in order to pass the course.

Outline of Major Topics

1. Systems
2. Group Dynamics
3. Infection Control
4. Pharmacokinetics
5. Biological Integrity
6. Therapeutic Relationships
7. Nursing Professional Role
8. Clinical Decision Making
9. Research Process
Instructional Methods

NUR 315 is a seminar course that includes discussion, case studies, evaluation and outcome planning.

Required Textbooks


Additionally, the course will use readings assigned in required junior level nursing courses and clinical case studies.

Evaluation

Student performance is based on class attendance, class participation and the completion of competency self assessment materials. If students do not successfully master the self assessment materials, remediation will be required and additional self assessment will be completed. This is a pass/no pass course which extends two semesters. Students register for the course in the fall and complete the course at the end of the spring semester. Student grades for the fall semester will be postponed till the end of the spring semester.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. If a student is ill, a health provider's statement may be requested to validate an absence, and the student must attend an alternate NUR 315 seminar.

Taping Policy

Taping is not allowed in nursing seminars.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If cheating is observed and documented by a faculty member, the student will be reported to the College of Nursing Student Affairs Committee and a no pass grade will be issued for the course. For further clarification, refer to the Student Handbook.

Student-Faculty Relationship

Scheduled student-faculty conferences are not held in NUR 315. However, faculty members are available to answer questions and provide appropriate guidance. Scheduled appointments are suggested should students wish to see the course chairperson.
Communication Devices

All communication devices, including cell phones and pagers, must be turned off while in class.

College of Nursing and MSU policy

Students should refer the College of Nursing or MSU Student Handbook for any areas not specifically covered in the syllabus.
Michigan State University  
College of Nursing  
NUR315 Core Competency in Nursing  
Fall 2002-Spring 2003  
Calendar for Section I  
Thursday 8:00am – 9:50am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Group 1</th>
<th>Group 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Semester</strong></td>
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| 1 Orientation  
Explanation of goals, objectives, syllabus, schedule, self assessments, available options, remediation | 8/29  
8-9:00am | 8/29  
8-9:00am |
| 2 Overview of critical thinking concepts, application to nursing, basic exercises | 9/5  
8-9:00am | 9/5  
8-9:00am |
| 3 Case study – Medical surgical patient and family, small group exercises | 9/12 | 9/26 |
| 4 Case study -- OB/Gyn patient and family, small group exercises | 10/10 | 10/24 |
| 5 Case study – Pediatric patient and family, small group exercises | 11/7 | 11/21 |
| 6 Patho-physiology self-assessment (CAPS) | 12/5 | 12/5 |
| 7 Finals  
Pharmacology self-assessment (CAPS) | 12/9  
7:45-9:45a | 12/9  
7:45-9:45a |
| **Spring semester** | | |
| 1 Orientation  
Review of basic concepts, test taking strategies | | 3/20 |
| 2 Maternity & Children  
Self-assessment (CAPS) | | 4/10 |
| 3 Nursing Care of Adults self-assessment (CAPS) | | 4/17 |
## Michigan State University
College of Nursing
NUR315 Core Competency in Nursing
Fall 2002-Spring 2003
Calendar for Section II
Thursday 1:50-2:40pm

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>8 Patho-physiology self-assessment (CAPS)</td>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>12/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Finals Pharmacology self-assessment (CAPS)</td>
<td>12/10 12:45-2:45p</td>
<td>12/10 12:45-2:45</td>
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| **Spring semester** | | |
| 1 Orientation Review of basic concepts, test taking strategies | 3/19 6-7:50pm |
| 2 Maternity & Children Self-assessment (CAPS) | 4/9 6-7:50pm |
| 3 Nursing Care of Adults self-assessment (CAPS) | 4/16 6-7:50pm |