The University Of Texas at Arlington

College of Nursing

RN-BSN Program

N-4465 Care of Vulnerable Populations across the Lifespan

Spring 2014

Intentionally blank

The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing
N4465-201: RN-BSN Care of Vulnerable Populations across the Lifespan
Spring 2014

Instructor(s): **Denise Cauble**, RN, PhD(c), CWOCN
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Hours: Thursday 12-1pm and by appointment

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Pickard Hall, Room 227
Meets on Thursday, per Master Schedule

Description of Course Content: Integrates knowledge from nursing theory and public health science in assessing health care needs of aggregates, communities, and society for the Registered Nurse (4 Credit hours, 60 hours).

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Apply core professional values (health promotion, prevention of illness and injury, partnership, respect for the environment, respect for diversity, and advocacy) and roles within Community/Public Health Nursing (C/PHN).
2. Examine the impact of culture, socioeconomic status, lifestyle, environment, and violence on the health of the community and healthcare access.
3. Perform a community assessment for a target population.
4. Develop a method of evaluation of community nursing interventions.
5. Analyze issues affecting global health, ethics, and social injustice.
6. Describe the components within the public health system used to address disasters, pandemics, bioterrorism, and public emergency.
7. Collaborate/Communicate with community health nurse/interdisciplinary professionals in a community agency that serves a target population.
8. Apply information and referral process to community resources for the selected population.
9. Integrate assessment findings, theory, and evidence-based research in the delivery of safe patient care in a selected target population.
10. Describe basic epidemiological concepts/biostatistics as they affect the community.
11. Utilize information technology to meet the needs of the target population.

Requirements: In class hours are approximately 32 hours, including time to conduct Windshield and Agency assessments. As a result, students must plan to spend additional time preparing for class and taking online quizzes as required.

1. Online quizzes

2. Participation in class: required journal articles, and case and simulation activities will be required regularly. Students who miss activities or do not submit quizzes, etc. will be given a 0.00; no make-ups will be given for missed quizzes, activities.

3. <u>Community Assessment</u>:
   - Community Windshield Survey and Statistical Data
   - Community Health Nursing Intervention
   - Community Agency Analysis

4. <u>1 FEMA Program:</u> Proof of completion (certificate) will be required.

5. <u>Attendance</u>:
   Students enrolled in the course are expected to attend all class times. Rolls may be taken in class. It is the responsibility of the student to sign the roll by the break time for each class attended.

6. <u>Blackboard:</u>
   Refer to CON Handbook. In addition, for this course Blackboard discussion boards will be utilized as follows:
   - <u>Student discussion board</u>: for students who would like to communicate with peers and faculty. Students are expected to comply with rules as described in the Student Handbook.
   - <u>Class Announcements Board</u>: the Lead Instructor will post announcements pertaining to class as needed. **Students are expected to check announcements frequently!**
   - <u>Blackboard Instant Messaging:</u> the Lead Instructor may utilize for office hours and group meetings.
   - <u>Assignments will be posted to Blackboard</u>: in the assignment box.
   - <u>Graded assignments</u> will be uploaded to Blackboard assignment box, unless otherwise stated by faculty.
   - <u>Grades</u> will be posted to Blackboard.

7. <u>Communication:</u>
   Students are expected to follow the following chain of communication and command:
   - Read the syllabus/text for directions/clarification, etc.
   - Contact Lead Faculty

<u>TEACHING METHODS</u>:
Case Studies
Demonstration
Discussion
Internet Resources
Lecture
Simulation

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:
Stanhope, M., & Lancaster, J. (2012). *Public Health Nursing* (8th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier/Mosby.

Houghton, Peggy M., Houghton, Timothy J., & Peters, Michael F. (2009). *APA: The Easy Way!* Baker College.

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTBOOKS: Texts used in Health Promotion Across the Lifespan; Holistic Health Assessment; Clinical Nursing Foundations, etc.

American Psychological Association, (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th Edition). Washington, DC: Author.

Writing Guidelines

This is a writing intense course. The APA Publication Manual is the guide used in the College of Nursing. It is expected that all writing will be completed using the style and format described in the APA Publication Manual. APA Website has a tutorial:
http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx
APA style manual will be used by the UTACON with some specific requirements for the undergraduate courses. http://www.uta.edu/nursing/msn/apaformat

Save copies of all of your work! Create a folder on your computer that is specifically for this course. As you create a new Word document for each assignment, save it in your course folder, and then submit it by the due date.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates (see Master Schedule for due dates):

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Assignment 1: Windshield Survey	15%
Assignment 2: Statistical Analysis of Community	15%
Assignment 3: Community Health Nursing Intervention	15%
Assignment 4: Community Agency Analysis	15%
Disaster Management FEMA Certificate	10%
Total Points:	**100%**

Assignment Guidelines
- ****Written assignments (**Windshield Survey, Community Statistical Data, Community Health Nursing Intervention, and Community Agency Analysis) **pass this course. Any student who does NOT make > or = to 70.00% weighted average on these assignments shall NOT successfully complete the course.**
- **Submit the RN-BSN Attestation form in Week ONE**. Assignments and quizzes will NOT be graded unless you submit the RN-BSN Attestation statement for this course (as required in Week 1). You will receive a ZERO for assignments and quizzes.

- **Submit assignments as scheduled.** The official time for the paper will be determined by the submission time. Late papers may be penalized up to 5 points for every day late after the date and time due unless prior arrangements have been made with the faculty. After the 5th day, no assignments will be accepted and students will receive a zero for that assignment.

- **Failure to complete a quiz** as scheduled shall result in an "F" for the quiz unless prior arrangements have been made with the Coach/Faculty. Quiz questions will be oriented toward evaluation of application and analysis, as well as, knowledge acquired. Quiz items are evaluated by the faculty using statistical analysis. Items will be addressed ONLY based upon the statistical analysis. Each quiz item has a rational for students to review.

Quizzes

- As nurses, we are guided by a set of practice expectations. A very important part of these expectations is appropriate moral and ethical behavior. Therefore, it is expected that you will work alone and without notes to take each of the online quizzes. You are expected to maintain test security by not discussing the questions with your peers or attempting to copy the quizzes in any way. If you discuss quiz questions or content of quizzes with others this is a violation of test security, and will result in being reported for academic dishonesty. We take test-security very seriously at the College of Nursing. Violations in test security are considered not just academic violations, but ethical violations, which is unacceptable behavior for nursing professionals.

- **Two online quizzes will be given during the course.** Before taking an online quiz, you must acknowledge you have read, have understood and will comply with the following statement:

  > I certify these responses are entirely my own work. I have not copied the work of any other student (past *or present) or collaborated with anyone on this quiz. In addition, I will not share the questions or answers from this quiz with other students. I understand that academic dishonesty is grounds for dismissal from the program.*

  Course quizzes will be posted online. Quizzes will be available to students during a specified time period listed on the course schedule. Quizzes will include information from the assigned course content/slide presentations and readings. Please review the online quiz instructions prior to attempting the quiz. The quiz is **timed**, you will be unable to return to any skipped items and the instructor will be unable to restart the quiz for you. **Remember to save your answers**. The quiz will not be available online after the deadline and students not completing the quiz at that time will receive a "0". Quizzes may be multiple choice, fill in the blank, T/F, or short answer. There will be no makeup quizzes. In the event a student anticipates that he/she will not be able to meet the deadline for taking a quiz due to circumstances beyond his/her control, the student is expected to notify the instructor **before** the deadline.

Overview of Graded Assignments

Overview of Community Assessment: A community assessment provides the basis and rationale for clinical interventions in Community Health Nursing. Community Health Nurses assess the community by using the nursing process. Nurses gather subjective and objective date, cluster the data into meaningful information, prioritize community health needs, develop Community Health Nursing Diagnoses, create interventions to address those needs, and evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions implemented. In order to gain a complete assessment of the community several kinds of data are needed:

1. **Assignment One: Windshield Survey and Statistical Analysis of Community**
   a. **Part One: Windshield Survey of the Community (i.e. zip code or school district) and interview Key Members within the community)**
   - Observation of community which is a zip code or school district. This portion of the assessment will give you a general idea of how the community looks and feels.
   - Interview 3 community members. This portion of the assessment will give you an idea of how people in the community see the community they live in (i.e. police or fireman, school teacher or librarian, and business owner or store clerk/manager).
   - Analysis: Once you have completed this portion of the community assessment, you will reflect and analyze your observations and write **two** Community Health Nursing Diagnoses. Submit these two Community Health Nursing Diagnoses.

   b. **Part Two**: **Community Health Statistical Analysis**
   - Statistical Data. This portion of the assessment will give facts about the community**.** Local statistical data must be compared to a larger community (i.e. cite, state and nation).
   - Analysis: Once you have completed this portion of the community assessment, you will now summarize both subjective and objective data and analyze correlations between the two (subjective data and objective date).

2. **Assignment Two: Community Health Nursing Intervention**
   - Analyze data and findings from the previous assignment and identify the top three health issues facing this community. Explain why these issues are a priority for the community. Support your diagnoses with examples from your Windshield Survey and Community Health Statistical Analysis.
   - Recommend an intervention to address **one** of the issues. Focusing on one diagnosis, recommend a nursing intervention to resolve a community health problem. Describe the intended outcome of the intervention while identifying supporting research for the intervention. Examine how the intervention accommodates strengths/limitations of the community. Discuss specifically how the intervention may be evaluated for effectiveness.
   - Support your intervention with local, state, national, and/or specialty authorities.

3. **Community Agency Analysis** (i.e. homeless shelter, public health clinic, employee health or occupational health centers, parishes, infection control depts., school clinic, halfway houses, CPS or Adult PS, HIV clinics, etc.)
   - You will obtain assessment data from your agency including agency mission, etc. and observations made by you while in the clinical agency and discussions you have with clients

and staff of the agency. Whichever agency you choose to assess **MUST** provide health care services to a vulnerable population group in the community.

- Analysis: Analyze and summarize your findings and write **two** Community Health Nursing Diagnoses

4. **Disaster Management FEMA Certificate**:
   - According to the Council for Excellence in Government, the American people should prepare for emergencies and/or disasters. As professional nurses we must be prepared to assist client, families and communities during times of disasters. In this assignment, you will complete one of the following FEMA certificates*
     1. IS 100 HCb: http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100HCb.asp
     2. IS 700.a: http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700a.asp.
   - NOTE this training will take approximately 3 hours and you MUST pass a FEMA exam in order to obtain your certificate which may take a few days to process. Once you have your certificate, you will scan the certificate and submit as completion of this assignment.
   - *Note IF you have completed either of these courses within the past 5 years, you will NOT need to repeat the course as long as you are able to provide a copy of satisfactory completion of the course. In this case, there is another online activity that you will be required to complete.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:
Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend **at least an additional 9 hours per week** of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Grading Policy:

In undergraduate nursing courses, all grade calculations will be carried out to two decimal places and there will be no rounding of final grades. Letter grades for tests, written assignments, and end of course grades, etc. shall be:

  A = 90.00 – 100.00
  B = 80.00 – 89.99
  C = 70.00 – 79.99
  D = 60.00 – 69.99

In order to successfully complete an undergraduate nursing course at UTA, the following minimum criteria must be met:

- 70% weighted average on proctored exams- N/A for this course
- **70 % weighted average on major written assignments (i.e. non-proctored written, computerized assignments, etc.)**
- 90% on math test (if applicable)- N/A for this course
90% on medication test and practicum check off (if applicable)- N/A for this course

The existing rule of C or better to progress remains in effect; therefore to successfully complete a nursing course, students shall have a course grade of 70.00 or greater.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

Drop Policy:
Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

As in the past, the last date to drop the course for clinical reasons is adjusted. The adjusted date will now reflect a point <u>two-thirds</u> of the way through the course or clinical rotation.

Adjusted drop dates in the Spring 2014 semester for Senior RN-BSN courses are as follows:

N4325 – Nursing Research – DROP DATE: February 6, 2014
N4465 –Vulnerable Populations across the Lifespan – DROP DATE: April 10, 2014
N4455 – Nursing Leadership & Mgmt. – DROP DATE: February 20, 2014
N4585 – Capstone Seminar – DROP DATE: April 17, 2014

Americans with Disabilities Act:
The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall, #102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity:
All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.
I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of

Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:
Copying another student's paper or any portion of it is plagiarism. Additionally, copying a portion of published material (e.g., books or journals) without adequately documenting the source is plagiarism. If **five** or more words in sequence are taken from a source, those words must be placed in quotes and the source referenced with author's name, date of publication, and page number of publication. If the author's ideas are rephrased, by transposing words or expressing the same idea using different words, the idea must be attributed to the author by proper referencing, giving the author's name and date of publication. If a single author's ideas are discussed in more than one paragraph, the author must be referenced at the end of each paragraph. Authors whose words or ideas have been used in the preparation of a paper must be listed in the references cited at the end of the paper. Students are encouraged to review the plagiarism module from the UT Arlington Central Library via http://library.uta.edu/tutorials/Plagiarism Papers are checked for plagiarism using special software.

Student Support Services:
UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication Policy:
The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the **sole** official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. ***Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/. If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at helpdesk@uta.edu.

ACCESS TO Blackboard

The Blackboard Discussion Board is to be viewed as a professional forum for student discussions. Students are free to discuss academic matters and consult one another regarding academic resources. The tone of postings on the Blackboard Discussion Board is to remain professional in nature at all times. It is not appropriate to post statements of a personal or political nature, or statements criticizing classmates or faculty. Statements considered inappropriate will be deleted by course faculty. Announcements from student organizations may be posted to the designated level discussion board (not associated with this course).
Students are to refrain from discussing this course, including clinical situations, written assignments, peers, or faculty on all social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Failure to comply with these expectations may result in further action including but not limited to removal from the discussion board.

Computer Requirements:

All computers on campus will access Blackboard. If you choose to access from home you must have a computer and a quality Internet provider such as DSL, Cable, or Satellite (regular telephone is not adequate). Questions about adequate computer hardware should be directed to the UTA help desk at 817-272-2208 or www.helpdesk@uta.edu They are open the same hours as the Library.

Your home computer's compatibility with Blackboard is your responsibility. Neither the helpdesk nor your instructor is responsible for the functionality of your home computer's configuration. If you have doubts about your own equipment you may wish to work at the many UTA Computer Labs on campus. **Please do not bring your technical problems to class. Your instructors are not available for technical support please call or contact the helpdesk.**

Word of Caution:

Do not rely on employer's computer system to access Blackboard. Students have encountered various problems (such as dropping them in the middle of an on-line quiz) due to the special filters, fire walls, program blocking programs, and barriers they put on their systems. It is advised to not take any on-line quizzes on a wireless system as students have also been dropped and used up their time trying to reconnect. Use a more stable system.

Software:

Your software (WORD, POWERPOINT, EXCEL and WINDOWS) should be up to date. As a student you may purchase the latest WINDOWS XP and OFFICE from the UTA Bookstore a very nominal fee. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

If you are in a course that gives quizzes and tests through Blackboard:

On-Line quizzes and tests ARE NOT to be considered open book tests or group tests. Using references or sharing or receiving information is a matter of Academic Dishonesty.

On-Line Quizzes on Blackboard will be made available for a specified amount of time and will be timed. **Failure to access the exam during the time will result in a zero and failure to complete within the test time will result in the grade earned when time ended.** Students who go over the allowed time for the test may receive a reduction in score. There is no general review process for on- line quizzes.

On-line quiz grades are released to MyGrades on Blackboard after the testing period, questions are then reviewed by the faculty – grades may be adjusted based on review. There is no general individual review process for on-line quizzes.

INCORRECTLY FORMATTED PAPERS

Any papers submitted in any format other than Word, and that cannot be opened in Blackboard will not be accepted for grading. Faculty reserves the right to refuse to read or grade an assignment that has not been completed according to guidelines. Such cases require special decisions regarding permission to resubmit work and penalty points, etc. that cannot be specified in this syllabus.

Student Feedback Survey:
At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Grade Grievances:
Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate/graduate catalog. For undergraduate courses, see http://wweb.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#10

LIBRARY INFORMATION: **Peace Williamson**
Stem Librarian, Central library
702 Planetarium Place, Office #216
Arlington, TX 76019
http://www.uta.edu/library/ | peace@uta.edu
Research information on nursing:
http://libguides.uta.edu/nursing

RN-BSN PROGRAM
SUPPORT STAFF: **Pamela Smith,** *Administrative Assistant I*
657 Pickard Hall, 6th floor
(817) 272-2776 ext. 4814
Email: pamsmith@uta.edu

COLLEGE OF NURSING INFORMATION:

UTA College of Nursing Policy:
Effective for students entering the nursing program Fall 2009 (Jr I) and forward, the following policy applies:

Students within the program, enrolled in an upper division NURS course are permitted to drop the course one time. Upon attempting the course for the second time, the earned grade is retained. Students may drop no more than three upper division NURS courses during their undergraduate career. Elective and pre-nursing courses are exempt from this policy.

APA FORMAT:
APA style manual will be used by the UTACON with some specific requirements for the undergraduate courses. The sample title page & instructions, as well as a Manuscript Preparation document can be found at: http://www.uta.edu/nursing/msn/apaformat

STUDENT CODE OF ETHICS:
The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing supports the Student Code of Ethics Policy. Students are responsible for knowing and complying with the Code. The Code can be found in the Student Handbook.

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
Nursing students in the UTA CON are considered to be part of the nursing profession. As members of the profession, students are expected to commit to and maintain high ethical standards.
Students are responsible and accountable for their own academic and professional behaviors and the resulting consequences.

Students will demonstrate self-discipline throughout all aspects of their nursing education, including meeting academic responsibilities and exhibiting professional conduct in the classroom and in the community, as outlined in the Texas Nurse Practice Act and Texas State Board of Nursing Policies.

It is each student's responsibility to promote scholastic honesty and professional ethics by actively participating with faculty in maintaining a quality academic environment. Students are expected to guard public safety by immediately reporting to faculty, any incident they observe or are aware of which would allow incompetent, unethical, or illegal practice by another individual. Having knowledge of and failing to report such behaviors constitutes a breach of both academic and professional responsibilities.

Refer to the Student Handbook for more information.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT GUIDELINES:
The Faculty of the BSN Program believes that classroom teaching has two goals: the provision of content pertinent to the discipline of nursing and the socialization of students into the professional role. We are committed to providing the curriculum in an atmosphere conducive to student learning and in a manner that will prepare graduates to be successful in the health care workplace. Refer to the Student Handbook for more information.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT ON BLACKBOARD AND SOCIAL MEDIA SITES:
The Blackboard Discussion Board is to be viewed as a professional forum for student discussions. Students are free to discuss academic matters and consult one another regarding academic resources. The tone of postings on the Blackboard Discussion Board is to remain professional in nature at all times. It is not appropriate to post statements of a personal or political nature, or statements criticizing classmates or faculty. Statements considered inappropriate will be deleted by course faculty. Announcements from student organizations may be posted to the designated level discussion board (not associated with this course).
Students are to refrain from discussing this course, including clinical situations, written assignments, peers, or faculty on all social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. Failure to comply with these expectations may result in further action by the instructor.

NO GIFT POLICY:
In accordance with Regents' Rules and Regulations and the UTA Standards of Conduct, the College of Nursing has a "no gift" policy. A donation to the UTA College of Nursing Scholarship Fund would be an appropriate way to recognize a faculty member's contribution to your learning. For information regarding the Scholarship Fund, please contact the Dean's office.

CLINICAL PASS/FAIL:

Clinical Failing Behaviors

Clinical failing behaviors are linked to the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners' Standards of Professional Practice. Issues related to professional conduct, management of stress, clarification of course, clinical assignment, and/or professional role expectations, may warrant clinical warnings, contracts for remediation, or course failure.

Clinical Failing Behaviors	Matched to NPA
1. Performance is unsafe.	1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,15
2. Questionable decisions are often made.	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15
3. Lacks insight into own behaviors and that of others.	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15
4. Difficulty in adapting to new ideas/functions.	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,14,15
5. Continues to need additional guidance and direction.	1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,14,15

Standards of Professional Nursing Practice (BNE 213.27, 217.11, 217.12)

1. Knows rationale for side effects of medications and treatments, and correctly administers same (217.11.3).
2. Documents nursing care accurately and completely, including signs and symptoms, nursing care rendered medication administration. Contacts health care team concerning significant events in patient health (217.11.4).
3. Implements a safe environment for patients and/or others, i.e., bed rails up, universal precautions (217.11.5).
4. Respects client confidentiality (217.11.6).
5. Accepts assignments commensurate with educational level, preparation, experience and knowledge (217.11.12).
6. Obtains instruction and supervision as necessary when implementing nursing procedures or practices (217.11.13).
7. Notifies the appropriate supervisor when leaving an assignment (217.11.14).
8. Recognizes and maintains professional boundaries of the nurse/patient relationship (217.11.15).
9. Clarifies orders, treatments, that nurse has reason to believe are inaccurate, non-effective or contraindicated (217.11.19).
10. Documents and reports completely and accurately. (217.11.4).
11. Able to distinguish right from wrong (213.27.2a).
12. Able to think and act rationally (213.27.2b).
13. Able to keep promises and honor obligations (213.27.2c).
14. Accountable for own behavior (213.27.2d).
15. Able to promptly and fully self-disclose facts, circumstances, events, errors and omissions when these disclosures will enhance health status of patients or protect patients from unnecessary risk or harm (213.27.2g).

Please refer to the Board of Nurse Examiners at www.bne.state.tx.us for any additional information regarding the Texas Nursing Practice Act.

HOME AND COMMUNITY VISIT SAFETY POLICY:

A. Overview:
The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing (UTACON) faculty wants you to have a safe and effective home/community visit. Personal safety is of vital concern for all involved. Safety issues are rarely a concern and should NOT interfere with a successful home/community visit. Usually, common sense is the overriding principle of self-protection and behavior. Constant awareness of your surroundings and access to emergency and faculty contact numbers will assist you in avoiding unsafe and potentially unsafe conditions and circumstances.

B. Purpose:
The purpose of the following guidelines is to direct you toward safe behaviors and activities to be conducted before, during, and after a home/community visit. These visits may occur in a variety of settings such as the home, agency, clinic, etc. Please read each item carefully and clarify any issues with your clinical faculty. Each item has been developed from experienced nurses who have successfully avoided unsafe situations and circumstances. Some student nurses find that they have fears about all aspects of the environment because they are in surroundings entirely different from those they have previously experienced. If this is the case, student nurses will find it helpful to discuss their fears with a faculty member who can help the student to objectively analyze the situation.

C. Guidelines:
1. Accountability
   a. The visitation schedule for the semester will be planned by the student and clinical faculty/advisor prior to making the first visit.
   b. Students are expected to be punctual, professionally dressed (see #4) and to maintain client confidentiality/ethical rights.
   c. If the student must be absent or will be delayed for a family/ agency visit, it is the responsibility of the student to contact family members and clinical faculty/advisor (as agreed upon) prior to the scheduled visit.
   d. Students ignoring punctuality, or failing to arrive at the designated time will be considered as demonstrating unprofessional conduct. Adjustments may be made after the initial family/ agency visit and should be determined with the designated clinical faculty/advisor.

2. Safety
   a. Visiting during daylight hours Monday through Friday, and Saturday for graduate students is strongly recommended. Visits during evening and weekend hours **must** be approved by your clinical faculty/advisor.
   b. **Undergraduate students may not under any conditions administer medication to their assigned client or family members.   Graduate students may administer medication according to physician orders.**
   c. Lock any personal items in your trunk before leaving the parking lot.
   d. Always inform a significant other regarding the address you are visiting and the anticipated length of time you will be there. When possible, travel with a partner.

e. Alert the client/agency (when possible) that you are coming and have them watch for you.

f. Have accurate directions to the street, building, or apartment.

g. If the area is unfamiliar to you, check with your clinical faculty/advisor for more detailed information. Obtain clear directions to the client's home. Use a map to identify the location to which you are traveling.

h. Drive with the windows closed and all car doors locked. Keep your purse or wallet in the trunk.

i. As you approach your destination, carefully observe your surroundings. Note: location and activity of the people; types and locations of cars; conditions of buildings (abandoned or heavily congested buildings).

j. Before getting out of the car, once again thoroughly check the surroundings. If you feel uneasy, do not get out of the car. Return to school or home and notify your clinical faculty/advisor.

k. Park your car in a well-lit, heavily traveled area of the street, and lock your car.

l. Do not enter the home if the situation seems questionable (e.g. drunk family members, family quarrel, combativeness, unleashed pets, etc.). Students should have an alternative plan such as postponing visit or meeting client/agency in another designated place. If students need to leave the setting quickly, they may want to say, "I'm leaving now, I must meet my instructor, or I forgot I have an appointment at school." Students should call 911 if in danger or a medical emergency presents. **Never try to take care of this situation on your own!**

m. Students should remain cautious when approaching pets within the home/community setting. They may be territorial and protective of their owners. It may be necessary to ask a family member to confine them briefly while you are completing your assessment and/ or visit.

3. Transportation
   a. **Undergraduate and graduate students should not transport clients in any vehicle**.
   b. Before leaving your home, know how to change a tire and take emergency supplies with you. Always use reliable transportation that is well fueled.

4. Professional Attire
   Professional attire (nursing uniform or dress slacks/skirt with shirt/ blouse, lab coat, nametag and nursing badge) as required for the agency, or assignment. Your clinical faculty/advisor will inform you of the requirements for the assigned visits.

5. Confidentiality
   a. Client confidentiality must be maintained at all times (e.g. not discussing family/ agency situation with another family member without permission, etc.). If questions or concerns arise, contact your clinical faculty for advice.
   b. Violation of confidentiality is considered as unprofessional conduct.

6. Communication
   Students conducting home or community visits should carry a list of emergency phone numbers and a cellular phone with them, if at all possible. Students should know how to

contact their designated clinical faculty member in case of any emergency. Refer to specific course guidelines for further information regarding this issue. Some courses may utilize a Decision Tree to assist students with this process.

CLINICAL DRESS CODE:
The clinical dress code applies to all graduate and undergraduate students of The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing (UTACON), and has two primary purposes: to insure that, whenever in the clinical setting, students of the UTACON: 1) represent the nursing profession and UTACON in a professional and appropriate manner, and 2) are readily identifiable as students.

Students are to adhere to the dress code any time they present themselves to a clinical agency in the role of nursing student. This includes going to the agency prior to clinical to select a patient, arriving at the agency in street clothes to change into hospital scrubs, and attending post-conference or classroom time at the agency, as well as when attending clinical. Clinical faculty has final judgment on the appropriateness of student attire. Refer to the Student Handbook for more information.

Award for Student Excellence in Clinical Nursing
This award is for an exceptional student who consistently exceeds the clinical expectations of the course. The student will be honored at an awards ceremony at the end of the semester. Clinical faculty will further discuss the award during the clinical rotation.
Criteria for selection:
- Consistently exceeds clinical performance standards in the application of theoretical concepts, evidence-based practice, and communication (written and verbal).
- Demonstrates exemplary performance in the use of critical thinking and problem solving skills.
- Demonstrates exemplary performance in the application of leadership principles and professionalism.

EMERGENCY COVERAGE FOR NEEDLE-STICK INJURIES & POLICY ON INVASIVE PROCEDURES
These policies may be found on the College of Nursing Website under the Student Handbook.

The Student Handbook can be found by going to the following link:
http://www.uta.edu/nursing/bsn-program/ and clicking on the link titled BSN Student Handbook located in the lower left-hand corner.