

NURS 4350: Transition to Professional Nursing (Capstone)
Fall 2015

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Clinical Sites: Cook Children's Medical Center; Plaza Medical Center; Methodist
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Individual faculty office hours will vary. Faculty office hours are by appointment and e-mail request.

Time and Place of Class Meetings: 0 classroom hours; 135 clinical hours

Description of Course Content: Focus on the synthesis of knowledge acquired throughout the curriculum and the enactment of the professional nurse role in a concentrated practicum. Prerequisite or Co-requisite: NURS 4223, 4351, and 4462.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Apply critical analysis and logical reasoning to clinical judgment and nursing decision-making processes.
2. Apply the nursing process using information technology and evidence-based data in the delivery of competent, culturally sensitive, developmentally appropriate holistic care.
3. Assume professional accountability and responsibility for the quality of nursing care, upholding legal and ethical standards.
4. Foster effective collaboration with individuals and groups, using oral, written, non-verbal, and electronic communication to enhance the therapeutic process and to maintain interdisciplinary professional relationships.
5. Provide safe comprehensive nursing care for a patient population in a health care setting in collaboration with and under the direct supervision of a registered nurse preceptor.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Evolve HESI RN Practice Test ISBN 9781455727384 (Course: 1301_hwoods21_0007)

Silvestri, Linda. (2011). *Saunders comprehensive review for the NCLEX-RN examination*. (5th ed). Saunders. ISBN 9781437708257 (From Med/Surg)

HESI. (2014). *HESI comprehensive review for the NCLEX-RN® examination*. (4rd ed). Elsevier. ISBN: 9781455727520

SUGGESTED TEXTBOOKS:

Silvestri, Linda. (2010). *Saunders Strategies for Test Success: Passing Nursing School and the NCLEX Exam*. (2nd ed). Elsevier IBSN 9781416062028

Evolve Patient Reviews ISBN 9781437767650

Assignments/Exams:

Comprehensive HESI Exam I is scheduled for Tuesday September 1, 2015
Comprehensive HESI Exam II date is Thursday November 5, 2015
Comprehensive HESI Exam III is TBD.

Please refer to the course schedule posted on Blackboard for time/location of HESI exams.

EVALUATION METHODS:

The Capstone course is designed to focus on the integration of knowledge and skills acquired throughout the nursing program.

There are several evaluations for the Capstone course. **The student must successfully complete ALL course requirements and evaluations in order to participate in the December 2015 College of Nursing Commencement Ceremony.**

The student must demonstrate satisfactory performance in **each** of the following 4 areas:

1. **Case Studies and Practests**-must score **90% or above** on all assigned sections-unlimited attempts to achieve score. Students are to submit verification of assignment completion to clinical faculty as directed on course schedule.
2. **Medication Math Test**-Must make **90% or above** on 20 question test. Three attempts to pass. Each test re-take will include 20 questions. Student must successfully pass medication math test in order to administer medications in Capstone (a clinical expectation).
3. **HESI Comprehensive Examination***
4. In this course, the nationally recognized HESI comprehensive end-of-course examination will be used to assess the student's overall level of knowledge and mastery of content learned throughout the curriculum.

HESI 1 is scheduled for September 1, 2015. This is a four (4) hour computerized exam with 160 questions. Students are **required** to obtain Evolve PracTest and it is recommended to also obtain a HESI study guide and CD or a Saunders Review Text to review in preparation for this exam and for the HESI Comprehensive Exam(s) scheduled later in the semester if the student does not achieve a passing score on HESI 1.

A HESI score of 900 is a strong predictor of success in passing the NCLEX-RN. The following individual work plan will assist students in obtaining this goal.

If you are not successful in scoring an 850 or above on HESI 1 then the student will complete the following:

- 1) By September 18, 2015, meet with Ms. Carol Harber (harber@uta.edu) or Ms. Shidler (shidler@uta.edu) to review and sign contract.
- 2) By October 2, 2015 complete Evolve Remediation on HESI 1 focusing on those areas which are in your "red zone". List the titles of your red zones and submit a report on what you learned from the Evolve Remediation, 1-2 pages. Do not cut and paste. Email report to Ms. Shidler (Shidler@uta.edu).
- 3) By October 2 meet with Ms. Estrada (gestrada@uta.edu) at least one time. Email for an appointment.
- 4) Purchase Module Silvestri: Hesi/Saunders Online Review NCLEX-RN Exam (1YR Access), 9781455744756. After purchasing, add instructor code Course ID: 111761_lcope12_1001. Contact Shiva Mirsaedi in the bookstore to purchase. You must complete the pre-test and the three recommended modules with a score of 80% or greater. Each module can take as long as four hours.

- a) By September 25: complete first module
 - b) By October 16: complete second module.
 - c) By October 30: complete third module.
- 5) You must attend three review sessions. Times will be emailed early in the semester and posted on BB.
- 6) When you meet the above requirements, you will be eligible to test on November 5, 2015. If you do not test on November 5, this could affect your opportunities to retest and complete your graduation requirements.
- 7) If you are unsuccessful on HESI 2, you will be allowed one more chance to take HESI 3 by Friday December 11, 2015.

Students who do not achieve a score of **850** or greater on the **HESI 2** Comprehensive Exam will be **required to attend all scheduled remediation sessions with the Student Success Coordinator and obtain approval to take the HESI Exam 3.**

Students who do not achieve a score of **850** or greater on the HESI 3 Comprehensive Exam will receive an INCOMPLETE for this course. Students must register for a two (2) credit Independent Study HESI Preparation course (N3237) during the Intersession immediately following the semester and obtain a passing score on the HESI 4 Comprehensive Exam. **There will be no opportunities to take the HESI 4 Comprehensive Exam again prior to the completion of the Intersession, regardless of prior travel plans or job commitments.**

Students who do not obtain a score of **850** or greater on the HESI 4 exam during Intersession, will continue to have an INCOMPLETE for December 2015 Capstone. These students will enter the Exit HESI Remediation Program during the following full semester which consists of a Continuing Education (CE) comprehensive nursing review course and a two credit hour Co-Op nursing assistant work experience course. Students will be required to take the HESI 1, 2 and 3 Comprehensive exams until a passing score of 850 or more is obtained. At the end of the aforementioned semester a student who does not obtain a passing score on the HESI 3 Comprehensive Exam, will FAIL the Capstone course for the semester.

Students who pass HESI Comprehensive Exam *but do not pass OSCE* and therefore drop or fail the course will be required to take and pass the HESI Comprehensive Exam as well as all other portions of the course in order to successfully pass N-4350.

Once a student has achieved a passing score on the HESI Comprehensive Exam, there will be no further opportunities to retake this exam for “practice purposes”. Once a student has passed the HESI Comprehensive Exam, the student should focus future study efforts on success in Capstone clinical and in preparation for the NCLEX-RN licensure exam to be taken post-graduation.

*As the HESI Comprehensive Exam is a computerized test that requires the use of on-campus computer labs and/or computer facilities in the College of Nursing, on rare occasions **technical problems may arise during the administration of the exam** (such as a power outage resulting from severe weather, or internet connectivity interruptions) that are beyond the control of the course faculty. If the start time of an exam is delayed for any technical reason the course faculty will strive to resolve the issue in as timely

a manner as possible and will consider alternatives (including rescheduling the start time or date of the exam) for resolution. Also, exam proctors have no control over noises made by students typing during the administration of the exam. Typing noise is considered a normal part of the computerized testing environment, just as the noise of turning pages is a normal part of the paper-and-pencil testing environment. Exam proctors are committed to maintaining as quiet a testing environment as possible for students, but noises outside the classroom due to foot traffic in hallways or events on campus are also beyond the control of the course faculty. If a student feels that the testing environment is unduly noisy or distracting for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student to report this to an exam proctor as soon as possible **during** the exam so corrective action may be taken. Earplugs are available upon request. **Unexpected internet connectivity interruptions will not automatically result in an additional HESI test administration.**

1. ***Clinical Skills Validation** in the SMART Hospital- 3 attempts. If unsuccessful, student will:
 - a) Receive 'prescription for practice' from skills evaluator
 - b) Self-schedule skills practice in SH
 - c) Re-test with Smart Hospital staff (2nd attempt)
 - d) If unsuccessful, work with the Student Success Coordinator
 - e) Re-test with Student Success Coordinators or Smart Hospital Staff, or Clinical Instructor (3rd attempt)

No pictures or videos may be taken during Skills Practice or Skills Validation

Must pass skills validation before advancing to OSCE evaluation.

*Clinical skills subject to validation and/or inclusion in OSCE scenario include but are **not limited to** the following items: **Patient Safety:** introduction, identification, allergies, environment, hand-washing, universal precautions; **Assessment;** Vital signs, problem focused, complaint specific, IV site; **Medication Administration:** five rights, allergy confirmation, IV, IV rate adjustments, injections, dose calculation; **Sterile Procedures/Sterile Technique:** sterile field, dressing change, catheter insertion; **Communication:** verbal, written, SBAR, telephone orders.

2. **Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) Scenarios**

The OSCE simulated patient care scenarios are designed for the student to demonstrate mastery of critical thinking, clinical decision making, professional communication, and implementation and evaluation of safe nursing care.

“Students have three attempts to pass the Capstone OSCE before they are allowed to progress to the Capstone preceptor experience. Full remediation is required before the third attempt. **If a student is unsuccessful on the third attempt, he/she will not be allowed to go to clinical and will then fail or drop the course.**”

If a student fails any part of the OSCE medication administration, the student will be debriefed by their clinical instructor immediately following the OSCE (1st attempt). The student will then schedule practice (remediation) in the Smart Hospital. The student will then be retested by faculty (2nd attempt). If unsuccessful on the second OSCE attempt the student will be directed to schedule additional practice with Student Success Coordinator and be re-evaluated by the clinical instructor (3rd attempt).

Student must pass medication administration in the OSCE with 100%.

There are a total of 21 points in the patient assessment component of the OSCE. Student must pass the patient assessment component of the OSCE scenario with a score of 18 points out of 21

(85.71%) or higher in order to progress to the clinical area. Students who are unsuccessful in the OSCE scenario are **required** to schedule a practice (remediation) session in the Smart Hospital prior to a re-evaluation OSCE. **Student must pass the OSCE re-evaluation prior to advancing to the Capstone clinical setting.**

Students scoring below 18 out of 21 points on first OSCE will:

- a) Debrief with clinical instructor and receive a prescription to practice any “hands on” skill identified as deficient (IVs, meds etc.) in the Smart Hospital. Student will schedule the required practice (remediation) in the Smart Hospital then notify clinical instructor of completion of practice, and schedule re-evaluation.
- b) The student will return for a 2nd OSCE attempt with their clinical instructor. If unsuccessful, the student will schedule practice and review with Student Success Coordinator prior to returning to Smart Hospital for full remediation with another OSCE like scenario prior to scheduling a 3rd attempt.
- c) If a 3rd OSCE attempt is required, the student will return to the Smart Hospital for another OSCE scenario with the clinical instructor, lead teacher, or designee (3rd attempt).

Student must pass the OSCE evaluation in order to advance to the clinical setting. If unsuccessful, the student will drop or fail the course.

Clinical Experience

Patient Care- in the acute care setting-**96 hours** working with a nurse preceptor. All on-site clinical hours must be scheduled and completed within syllabus guidelines to meet course requirements. Students may not be in the clinical area without prior schedule approval by the clinical instructor.

The clinical experience is a concentrated practicum in which the student is paired with a registered nurse preceptor in an acute care hospital setting. Nurse Preceptors are arranged and assigned in advance of the clinical start date, through collaboration with CON Clinical Facilities Coordinator, agency Site Coordinators, and Clinical Instructors. The student is expected to respect the establish process for procurement of preceptors and to refrain from making individual arrangements outside of the established process. The student is required to work the same schedule as their preceptor. It is **strongly advised** that clinical hours be completed in a timely manner—students are advised not to wait until the last week of the course to complete the majority of their required hours. Hours should be scheduled in a prompt, timely fashion so that a strong working relationship can be established with the assigned preceptor and to ensure the completion of required clinical hours by the scheduled end of the rotation. Students must perform all procedures, including medication administration, under the direct supervision of their preceptor or clinical instructor. Please refer to the “Clinical” section on Blackboard for more information on the clinical experience and expectations.

Students may begin to complete their Capstone clinical hours under the following conditions:

- 1) All coursework in N4351 (Nursing Leadership and Management) must be completed before starting Capstone clinical hours.
- 2) A clinical staff nurse preceptor contract exists between the College of Nursing and the clinical agency, and a work schedule has been negotiated between the student and staff nurse preceptor.
- 3) **Students must have successfully passed assigned Case Studies and Practests, Medication Math Test, Skills Validation, and OSCE scenario prior to beginning Capstone clinical hours.**

All clinical hours MUST be completed by December 12, 2015

Clinical evaluation will be completed by the clinical instructor, and will include both student-provided and preceptor-provided documentation. Students demonstrating consistent satisfactory accomplishment

of the clinical objectives will receive a PASS for the clinical experience. Students who fail to demonstrate expected clinical behaviors or are deemed unsafe will **FAIL** the clinical component and receive a course grade **F**. Refer to Undergraduate Handbook for more information.

The student must successfully complete ALL course requirements in order to participate in the December 2015 College of Nursing Commencement Ceremony.

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 including but not limited to removal from the discussion board.

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 University Catalog.

<http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduatetext>

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. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Courses with adjusted drop dates in Fall 2015 are as follows:
Management, Trends, and Community Health: October 19, 2015
Capstone: December 4, 2015

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.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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.

UT Arlington faculty members 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. If any exams are administered in a non-proctored environment, I reserve the right, at any time, to require a student to take or re-take any or all exams in a proctored environment. If I deem this necessary, the student is responsible for making the proctoring arrangements, subject to my approval. This policy applies to any and all assignments required in this course.

Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, which states “Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” Suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Community Standards. Being found responsible for violating Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2 by the Office of Community standards will result in course failure. 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/plagiarism/index.html>. Papers are now checked for plagiarism and stored in Blackboard.

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: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online 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>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest stairwell. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The clinical experience is a concentrated practicum in which the student is paired with a registered nurse preceptor in an acute care hospital setting. The student is expected to negotiate his/her clinical hours with the assistance of their preceptor and clinical instructor, and is required to work the same schedule as their preceptor. It is **strongly advised** that clinical hours be completed in a timely manner—students are advised not to wait until the last week of the course to complete the majority of their required hours. Hours should be scheduled in a prompt, timely fashion so that a strong working relationship can be established with the assigned preceptor and to ensure the completion of required clinical hours by the scheduled end of the rotation. Students must perform all procedures, including medication administration, under the direct supervision of their preceptor or clinical instructor. Please refer to the “Clinical” section on Blackboard for more information on the clinical experience and expectations. Student s may begin to complete their Capstone clinical hours under the following conditions:

1. All clinical hours in N4351 (Nursing Leadership and Management) must be completed before starting Capstone clinical hours.
2. A clinical staff nurse preceptor contract exists between the School of Nursing and the clinical agency, and a work schedule has been negotiated between the student and staff nurse preceptor.
3. The student must not be at risk of failing N4351.
4. Clinical hours scheduled outside the approval and/or knowledge of the clinical instructor or outside these guidelines may be disallowed. Unauthorized clinical hours will not be applied to the completion of the required hours for the course, and may result in disciplinary action up to and including clinical/course failure.

All clinical hours **MUST** be completed by December 12, 2015.

Clinical evaluation will be completed by the clinical instructor, and will include both student-provided and preceptor-provided documentation. Students demonstrating consistent satisfactory accomplishment of the clinical objectives will receive a **PASS** for the clinical experience. Students who fail to demonstrate expected and professional clinical behaviors or are deemed unsafe will **FAIL** the clinical component and receive a course grade **F**. Refer to Undergraduate Handbook for more information.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Attendance and participation is expected for HESI Comprehensive Exam(s), clinical learning experiences, case studies and Practice Tests, student clinical conferences, and clinical performance evaluations. Students are expected to be on time for all exams and clinical activities. Excessive absences will be reported to the Registrar's office, and may result in course failure. On scheduled clinical days, students are expected to notify **BOTH** the clinical instructor and clinical preceptor of absences as soon as possible. Students are expected to document weekly clinical hours required for the course with signature verification by the preceptor/designee during the clinical rotation. Absences from clinical will be made up at the discretion of the clinical instructor. All clinical hours must be documented to **accurately** reflect the actual time spent in the clinical setting.
2. Because Capstone is an intensive, focused course that requires the completion of 135 clinical hours and the HESI Comprehensive Exam, it may not be possible for the student to work an outside job while fulfilling the concentrated course and clinical requirements. Students should take this into consideration when enrolling in the course and plan accordingly.
3. **NO CHILDREN MAY BE BROUGHT TO CLASS OR EXAMS.** Do not leave children unattended in the building.
4. Students are responsible for any information presented in the course including, but not limited to guest speaker or clinical information and forms, announcements, schedule changes, syllabus changes, and handouts. Students are also responsible for checking Blackboard daily throughout the entire course and for any posted announcements.
5. During class, the audio mode of beepers and cell phones must be turned off. Cell phone conversations should be limited to break time only.
6. Laptops may be used during class time for **NOTE TAKING ONLY** and should not be for other purposes during class time.
7. Students should provide their families and/or emergency contacts with class and clinical schedules, as well as phone numbers of the College of Nursing and clinical agency, so that messages may be given to students in an appropriate manner. Conversely, students will be asked to provide their clinical instructors with the name and phone number of a person who can be contacted in case of an emergency affecting the student.
8. Students will be requested to complete instructor, course, and clinical facility evaluations as part of the College of Nursing's commitment to ongoing quality control and improvement of course delivery and curriculum effectiveness.

LIBRARY INFORMATION: **Peace Ossom Williamson, MLS, MS, AHIP**
Nursing Liaison Librarian, Central Library Office 216
<http://www.uta.edu/library> | peace@uta.edu
Research information on nursing:
<http://libguides.uta.edu/nursing>

**UNDERGRADUATE
SUPPORT STAFF:**

Holly Woods, *Administrative Assistant I, Pre-nursing & Senior II*
660 Pickard Hall, (817) 272-7295
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661 Pickard Hall, (817) 272-0367
Email: skyle@uta.edu

COLLEGE OF NURSING INFORMATION:

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.

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>.

TESTING ENVIRONMENT:

Although faculty strives to provide a quiet learning/testing environment there may be noises and distractions in any testing environment that are beyond the control of the exam proctors. If a student feels that the testing environment is unduly noisy or distracting for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student to report this to an exam proctor as soon as possible during the exam so corrective action may be taken.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS EXPERIENCE:

Capstone is the synthesis of theoretical knowledge, critical thinking, and clinical skills learned throughout the undergraduate nursing program. Together, these skills are demonstrated in appropriately managing the care needs of patients in the acute care setting as a professional nurse.

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 should be identified at all times by wearing their nursing student identification badge/name tag.

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.

Undergraduate, prelicensure student nurses should wear their UTACON uniform and UTACON insignia patch ONLY when in simulation, clinical or other learning experiences authorized by UTACON faculty. Students are to provide nursing care to patients at clinical facilities ONLY when authorized by their UTACON instructor and when their clinical instructor and/or preceptor are present on site. Students who provide nursing care to patients when an instructor or preceptor IS NOT present on site will receive a FAILING grade for clinical and a course grade of "F".

OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:

Undergraduate Nursing faculty and students shall follow the University policy regarding Observance of Religious Holy Days: (http://www.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#6)

CLINICAL ATTENDANCE WHEN UNIVERSITY IS CLOSED

Some programs in the College of Nursing, such as the Academic Partnership Program, may require students to attend clinical on evenings, nights, week-ends, or holidays. Students are expected to attend their assigned clinical rotation as scheduled, even when the University is otherwise closed.

POLICY ON INVASIVE PROCEDURES

Allowing students to practice invasive skills (e.g., IM, SQ, IV's, NG tubes, intubation) on other students in the learning lab will no longer be used as a teaching strategy. Skills may be practiced on the

simulators in the learning lab. Students will be able to perform the skills in the clinical setting under the appropriate faculty or preceptor supervision.

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.

CLINICAL PASS/FAIL:

Clinical Failing Behaviors

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

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

1. Knows rationale for side effects of medications and treatments, and correctly administers same 217.00 (1) (C).
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 (1) (D).
3. Implements a safe environment for patients and/or others, i.e., bed rails up, universal precautions 217.11 (1) (B).
4. Respects client confidentiality 217.11 (1) (E).
5. Accepts assignments commensurate with educational level, preparation, experience and knowledge 217.11(1) (T).
6. Obtains instruction and supervision as necessary when implementing nursing procedures or practices 217.11(1) (H).
7. Notifies the appropriate supervisor when leaving an assignment 217.11(1) (I).
8. Recognizes and maintains professional boundaries of the nurse/patient relationship 217.11(1) (J).
9. Clarifies orders, treatments, that nurse has reason to believe are inaccurate, non-effective or contraindicated 217.11(1) (N).
10. Able to distinguish right from wrong 213.27(b) (2) (A).
11. Able to think and act rationally 213.27(b) (2) (B).
12. Able to keep promises and honor obligations 213.27(b) (2) (C).
13. Accountable for own behavior 213.27(b) (2) (D).

14. 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(b) (2)(G).

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

HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO BLOOD, BLOOD PRODUCTS OR BODY FLUIDS:

Note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that individuals who have been exposed to needle sticks or to potentially infectious blood, blood products, or body fluids should be evaluated and, when appropriate, have treatment initiated within two hours.

Upon sustaining a contaminated needle stick or being exposed to hazardous blood or blood products, the student will:

1. Immediately report the incident to the clinical faculty member and the appropriate person in the clinical agency.
 2. Have the wound inspected, cleansed, and dressed.
 3. Complete the institutional incident report and follow institutional policy as applicable.
 4. Seek medical attention as necessary based on level of exposure.
- Please note that all students are responsible for obtaining and maintaining their own health insurance and are responsible for the costs of medical/health care assessment, treatment and follow-up that are not covered by the student's health insurance. Students should be aware of the coverage on their health insurance policy as most may not cover the full cost of required medical treatment and services in the case of a contaminated needle stick or hazardous exposure to blood or blood products.

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.

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.

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.