

VN 116
Patient Care Management and Critical Thinking

I. Course Description

An overview of the leadership and management process as it relates to management of patient care is presented. Clinical application is integrated into VN courses. Critical thinking is introduced for evidence-based client care through situational assessments, patient safety, identification of problematic areas, recognition of available solutions, and “best practices” for decision-making.

II. Prerequisites or Co-requisites

Prerequisite: Admission to the nursing program or permission of the instructor and

Co-requisite: VN 110 and VN 112 are co-requisites

III. Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to develop a rudimentary “tool box” of leadership skills and critical thinking abilities for the first semester VN student that will be applied to all subsequent clinical applications. Upon completion of this unit, the student will

- relate Maslow’s hierarchy of needs to motivating personnel.
- discuss components of the communication process.
- relate the communication process to managing personnel.
- contrast the role of a variety of nursing personnel.
- discuss issues involved in staffing patterns.
- describe methods of conflict resolution.
- discuss common organizational structures found in the health care industry.
- analyze the influence of the organizational structure on patient care management.
- discuss economic issues related to the health care industry.
- identify how the nurse influences safety for patients throughout the health care system.
- understand the utilization of the nursing process in caring for patients:

IV. Course Requirements

A. Hours

VN 116, is a 2.5 unit course.

B. Assignments

Reading, CD/video, oral and writing assignments are required. The reading list includes those required of this course and additional outside assignments. Writing assignments will reflect the objectives listed and may include, but not be limited to, short essays, journals, and/or professional papers. Outside assignments including but not limited to independent and group exercises and learning center activities may be assigned and are required. Students may be referred back to the nursing learning center tutor if needed to support the learning environment. You are expected to increase participation and ‘readiness for class as the semester progresses.

Participation includes class discussions, asking/answering questions, and group project work. Similarly, the expectation of class content knowledge will increase as the semester progresses.

C. Methods of Evaluation

Grading will include home assignments, class participation, group projects, no more than 6 quizzes and the midterm and final exams. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS FOR TESTS OR QUIZZES MISSED DUE TO ABSENCE.** A total grade of 75% or above and passing the final at 75% or above are required to pass.

Students must maintain a “C” average grade as determined by the scale below:

A = 92-100%

B = 83-91%

C = 75-82%

D = 68-74%

F = Below 68%

Grades will not be “rounded”. To advance to the next semester, a “C” or better is required in this course and the co-requisite courses.

The student is responsible for dropping (W) the class before the deadline as outlined on registration forms. Failure to pass this class will affect the ability to progress to the next semester. Students failing must make an appointment to speak with the Director of Nursing Education. Content emphasized in class reading assignments, presentations, lectures, discussions, and some journal assignments will be used in the quizzes and examinations.

The point values for major assignments are listed below with due dates to be given during the class.

Assignment	Frequency	Max points for each	Max Total
Journals	6	10	60
Group Project	1	100	100
Group Project	1	100	100
Class Participation and Assignments	All semester	50/semester	50
Exams	4	100	400
Final Exam	1	100	100

D. Attendance and Behavior

It is the responsibility of each student to attend all class time and to contact the faculty person before the start of class of any need to be excused from class. **Absences are limited to the number of hours class meets in one week.** A student who reaches the maximum allowable hours of absenteeism may be dropped by the instructor.

Acceptance of absenteeism excuses is at the discretion of the faculty member. A student who reaches the maximum allowable number of hours absent may file a petition to reenter the nursing program. The teaching team will meet with the student to discuss remediation and the possibility of reentry.

Students who are late for class three times will be considered absent for one day.

The entry of a student into the nursing program constitutes the student's acceptance of and willingness to abide to

- The Program Handbook, and any approved corrections/clarifications, which guides the grading and standards for this course
- The College Catalog which outlines the Standards of Student Conduct and pertinent regulations.

Any issues related to behavior that does not meet the above standards will be addressed through the proper channels.

V. Text Books and Items Needed for this Course:

Required:

- A. Kurzen, C. R. (2012) Contemporary practical/vocational nursing. 7th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, ISBN: 978-1-60913-692-5
- B. Berman, Snyder, Kozier, & Erb, (2012) Kozier & Erb's Fundamentals of Nursing. 9th ed.: Prehall, ISBN-13: 978-0-13-802461-1
- C. Email or Gmail account
- D. Access to internet and other computerized technological mediums

VI. Student Learning Outcomes

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

- A. Effectively communicate with all appropriate parties regarding patient care and interventions for a given scenario (applied in clinical setting)
- B. Demonstrate critical thinking and judgment in clinical decision making related to interactions with patients
- C. Identify leadership techniques useful to LVN practice.

VII. Special Considerations

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor and the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office (355-6312, Room 2117) as soon as possible.