

**Imperial Valley College  
Nursing and Allied Health  
Spring 2014**

**VN 122 - Common Health Problems I**

I. Course Description:

The first of three eight-week courses designed to provide a progressive and sequential study of common well-defined health problems of the respiratory, reproductive, and special senses systems are presented. Transition from wellness to illness is emphasized. Concepts acquired in previous courses are applied with increasing complexity to caring for individuals of all ages. Physiological, psychological, emotional, cultural and social concepts are integrated into the planning and implementation of nursing care. Concurrent classroom and clinical experience are provided.

II. Texts:

A. Required

1. Osborn, Medical-Surgical Nursing, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., Pearson, 2010
2. Ricci, Maternity & Pediatric Nursing, 3rd ed., Walters Kluwer/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins,
3. Lynn, Taylor's Clinical Nursing Skills, 3rd ed., Walters Kluwer/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2011
4. Kozier, Fundamentals of Nursing, 9th ed., Prentice Hall, 2012
5. Roth, Nutrition & Diet Therapy, 10<sup>th</sup> ed., Thompson, 2011

B. Recommended

1. Ricci, Study Guide for Ricci & Kyle's Maternity & Pediatric Nursing, Walters Kluwer/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2009
2. Doenges, Nursing Care Plans, F.A. Davis, 2006

III. Prerequisites:

VN 112, VN 116 or permission of instructor.

IV. Course Requirements:

A. Hours

VN 122, Common Health Problems I, is a 5.5 unit course. It is divided into theory and clinical components as follows:

	<u>Units</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Theory Lecture	2.0	36

Skills Lecture	$\frac{.5}{2.5}$	$\frac{9}{45}$
Clinical	2.5	135
Skills Laboratory	$\frac{.5}{3.0}$	$\frac{27}{162}$

B. LVN Program Grading

The Licensed Vocational Program complies with the Imperial Valley College grading policies in the current catalog **and** the LVN program grading policy as outlined.

- 1.) All assignments are graded on the following scale and grades are **not** rounded.

A = 92%-100%

B = 83%-91%

C = 75%-82%

D = 68%-74%

F = Below 68%

**F = When the clinical evaluation is unsatisfactory regardless of the theory grade.**

**The final examination must be passed with a 75% or a grade of "F" for the course will be issued as outlined in the LVN student handbook.**

\* The student is responsible for making an appointment with their instructor anytime their grade average drops below 76%.

- 2.) Student must maintain a "C" average in all nursing courses to advance in the program.
- (a.) Both the clinical and classroom aspects of each course must be passed. Failure in either part results in failure of the course and requires re-taking of the entire course.
- (b.) Scoring requirements for successful completion of each course:
- (i) 75% or better of total possible points accumulated from all written work and examinations (overall coursework), and
  - (ii) 75% or better of the total possible points accumulated from the major unit exams as designated in the course syllabi, and
  - (iii) 'Satisfactory' and /or 75% or better in clinical performance, including non-graded written assignments and pre-lab

preparation.

- 3.) Major Unit Exams and Remediation
  - 1.) The student who fails the 1<sup>st</sup> unit exam shall:
    - (a.) Complete remediation in the Nursing Learning Center with a tutor.
    - (b.) Demonstrate knowledge of those areas identified, by the faculty as being deficient prior to sitting for the next modular exam.
    - (c.) Receive a 0% on any subsequent exam, if non – compliant with remediation.
  - 2.) The student who fails a 2<sup>nd</sup> unit exam or has an accumulated average less than 75% shall:
    - (a.) Meet with the teaching team
    - (b.) Develop and submit a personal learning contract that includes all items of deficiencies and specific plan for improving test success.
  - 3.) The student who fails a 3<sup>rd</sup> unit exam **or** has an accumulated average less than 75% shall:
    - (a.) Meet with the teaching team to consider withdrawal from the nursing program.
    - (b.) If the drop date has passed, the student will meet with the teaching team regarding the possible failure of the nursing course.

**4.) ALGORITHM FOR DIAGNOSTIC EXAMS (ATI):**

- (a.) Refer to LVN Handbook for information.
- (b.) Scores will be considered as a unit exam.

**C. Clinical and Skills Laboratory Performance Grading:**

1. Clinical and skills laboratory performance will be determined on a satisfactory or unsatisfactory basis.
  - a. Receive one unsatisfactory in clinical/skills laboratory, complete a NLC referral (remediation) established by the instructor prior to the next clinical/skills laboratory.
  - b. If a second clinical/skills lab is "unsatisfactory", complete NLC referral (remediation) established by the instructor prior to the next clinical/skills lab.
  - c. Receive a third "unsatisfactory" in clinical/skills lab, student will meet with the teaching team to consider dismissal from the nursing course. Please bear in mind that two or three "unsatisfactory" clinical/skills lab performances could be received in one day.
  - d. A formal clinical evaluation will be conducted by the clinical instructor at the completion of each 4 week rotation. A comprehensive classroom and clinical evaluation will be

completed by the clinical instructor in conjunction with the team leader at the completion of the eight-week course.

- e. When a care plan is returned to a student with an unsatisfactory grade, the student is expected to correct the plan within the designated time frame and return it to the instructor. If a student fails to correct the care plan on time or if the returned plan continues to be unsatisfactory, it will be reflected as unsatisfactory performance for the rotation.

2. Theory, clinical, and skills laboratory requirements must be satisfactorily completed independent of each other in order to successfully complete the course.

D. Grade Components:

1. Theory

- a. A maximum of six (6) Module exams will be given.
- b. One comprehensive final exam will be given.
- c. Other written assignments may be given at the discretion of the instructor. Written assignments will be assigned completion dates by the instructor. Materials handed in late may be given an “unsatisfactory” grade. Written assignment grades will be averaged in with other grades according to the grading scale policy. **All written assignments must be typewritten and follow APA format.**

2. Skills Laboratory

- a. All skills described later in this course must be satisfactorily demonstrated to the instructors or the Nursing Learning Center tutors by the dates designated on the schedule.
- b. Clinical instructor may refer a student back to the skills lab if in his/her judgment more practice on a skill is needed.

3. Clinical

- a. A Student Progress Report form will be given to each student at the beginning of the course. A performance assessment will be conducted at the completion of 4 weeks. A comprehensive evaluation will be conducted at the end.

E. Pharmacological Dosage Calculation Exam:

- 1.) Purpose: Because patient safety is the utmost priority, each student will be required to take and successfully demonstrate competence (pass) a drug calculations exam each semester.
- 2.) Minimum requirements:
  - a.) 10 – 25 questions / calculations appropriate to the level of each semester

- b.) Student must show their work
  - c.) Pass with a score of 92 % or higher. The score is not included in the grade point average for the course as it is a pass/fail assignment.
  - d.) Time limits assigned as appropriate to the number of questions.
  - e.) Correct units must be stipulated to count as correct: i.e. ml/hr, units/hr, etc.
- 3.) The student is allowed three (3) attempts to pass
- a) Students who do not pass:
    - (i) Must seek tutoring from faculty and /or math department and/or computerized software in the nursing learning center.
    - (ii) Cannot administer any medication in a clinical setting, except under the direct supervision of the instructor: ensuring the 5 rights, review of drug action, nursing considerations, calculations, rates, relevant labs and administration with the instructor present.
    - (iii) If the student is unsuccessful of the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt, the student cannot progress to the next nursing course.

D. Attendance

1. According to the Imperial Valley College catalog: Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students enrolled. Instructors are expected to take a student's record into account in computing grades. A student may be excluded from further attendance in a class during any semester when absences after the close of registration have exceeded the number of class hours which the class meets per week. Further, an instructor may drop any student judged to be a disturbing element in the class. However, the attendance policy of the Nursing Program is implemented as follows:
- a. LVN students in the Imperial Valley College Associate Degree Nursing Program are expected to attend all classes and clinical practice assignments. Absences will be limited to the following for the semester:

**VN 122: 11.5 hours**

A student who reaches the maximum allowable number of hours absent will file a petition to remain in the nursing program. The student will meet with the teaching team to

discuss the situation and will be considered for dismissal. If remediation is considered, the student will be required to match missed hours, in excess of the maximum allowable, with assigned hours of study. These assignments will be based upon the classroom and clinical objectives. The instructor(s) will determine the appropriate type of remediation.

- b. VN students in the Imperial Valley College Vocational Nursing Program are expected to meet the attendance requirements approved by the Board of Vocational Nurse and Psychiatric Technician Examiners as posted on the bulletin board.
- c. Students who are late to class three times in any nursing course will be considered absent for one day. Class includes lecture and clinical.

E. Disabilities

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

DSP&S  
Room 2117  
Health Sciences Building  
(760) 355-6312

V. Course Content:

Common medical and surgical problems of the reproductive, respiratory, and special senses systems are considered. Nursing interventions are presented with focus on the pathophysiology, nutrition and pharmacology required to restore or maintain homeostasis dependent of these systems throughout the lifespan. Emphasis is also on the legal and ethical issues involved. Cultural concerns are presented.

VI. Course Objectives:

1. Assist individuals and families to cope with loss; the grieving process.
2. Contrast surgical interventions common to patients with respiratory, reproductive, and special senses problems.
3. Relate the principles of fluid and electrolyte alteration in nursing care of various health disorders.
4. Identify common health problems of the respiratory system that impact on

- individuals throughout the lifespan.
5. Plan nursing care for adult patients with respiratory problems who are being treated medically/surgically.  
Include:
    - a. Pathophysiology
    - b. Diagnostic tests
    - c. Pharmacologic agents
    - d. Nutritional requirements
    - e. Teaching/learning needs
    - f. Nursing interventions
    - g. Growth and developmental needs
    - h. Coping mechanisms
    - i. Legal/ethical issues
    - j. Cultural aspects
    - k. Psychosocial needs
  6. Plan nursing care for pediatric patients with respiratory problems who are being treated medically/ surgically.
    - a. Pathophysiology
    - b. Diagnostic tests
    - c. Pharmacologic agents
    - d. Nutritional requirements
    - e. Teaching/learning needs
    - f. Nursing interventions
    - g. Growth and developmental needs
    - h. Coping mechanisms
    - l. Legal/ethical issues
    - j. Cultural aspects
    - k. Psychosocial needs
  7. Plan nursing care for patients with visual, auditory and speech problems across the life span.
  8. Plan nursing care for patients with problems of the reproductive system throughout the life span.
  9. Develop technical skills required to provide skilled nursing care to patients with respiratory, reproductive, and special senses problems.
  10. Develop teaching plans for patients with respiratory, reproductive, and special senses problems.
  11. Recognize the legal, ethical and cultural issues involved in caring for patients with chronic respiratory, reproductive, and special senses problems.
  12. The VN student will develop nursing skills required to provide skilled nursing care to geriatric patients.

VII. Content Modules:

- Module A: Application of the Nursing Process to Provide Immediate Pre and Post Surgical Care to Individual
- Module B: Application of the Nursing Process in Caring for the Pediatric and Adult Surgical Patient
- Module C: Application of the Nursing Process in Assessment of the Respiratory System and Nursing Interventions in Caring for Patients with Common Health Problems of the Upper Airway
- Module D: Application of the Nursing Process in the Care of Adult Patients with Common Health Problems of the Lower Airway and Inadequate Respiratory Exchange
- Module E: Application of the Nursing Process in the Care of the Pediatric Patient with Respiratory Problems
- Module F: Application of the Nursing Process in Caring for Patients with Common Health Problems of the Visual, Auditory, and Speech Systems
- Module G: Application of the Nursing Process in Caring for Patients with Common Health Problems of the Reproductive System
- Module H: Application of the Nursing Process in Caring for Patients with Stress Adaptations Related to Separation, Loss, Death and Dying, and Pain

VIII. Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify common health problems of the respiratory and special senses systems that impact individuals through the lifespan and document effectiveness of nursing interventions for the plan of care.