

Course Descriptions of Required Courses

NURS 500 Theoretical Bases of Nursing Research and Evidence Based Practice (2)

Exploration of the interface of theory, research and clinical practice. Middle range theories from nursing and other disciplines are examined for their potential use as a foundation for research and clinical practice in advanced nursing. Theory construction through the use of concept analysis and techniques and basics of the research process is explored.

NURS 502 Advanced Health Assessment (2)

The theory and practice of advanced health assessment and application to the advanced nursing role is examined. An emphasis on the analysis and synthesis of subjective and objective data to diagnose health problems and develop management plans is made. Students will focus on promotion of health in individuals across the age range and within the family, community and cultural context. *Enrollment Requirement: NURS 503A must be taken concurrently.*

NURS 503A Advanced Health Assessment Field Study (1)

Application of advanced health assessment techniques in the skills lab. The students will complete a health assessment and physical examination in the skills lab. In addition, students will integrate health promotion activities into lab assignments. The minimum requirement for this practicum is 45 hours. *Enrollment Requirement: NURS 502 must be taken concurrently.*

NURS 504 Advanced Pathophysiology (3)

Exploration of the application of advanced knowledge of complex physiological functions and pathophysiological processes related to the care of individuals with altered health states across the life span. Alterations in function and adaptive, integrative and regulatory mechanisms at the molecular, cellular, organ and system levels are studied. The primary focus is to provide a foundation for clinical decision-making and management of health problems across the lifespan.

NURS 506 Advanced Pharmacology (3)

Examination of the theoretical basis for pharmacological treatment of common chronic health problems. Selected classifications of drugs with emphasis on the principles of pharmacokinetics, the pathophysiological basis for therapeutic use, adverse effects, drug interactions, contraindications for use, patient education on medication therapy, and issues of adherence are explored.

NURS 508 Health Care Policy (2)

Exploration of the characteristics of the current health care environment as it pertains to policy development, health planning, and economic management at the global, national, state and local levels. Multidisciplinary decisions regarding equitable distribution of existing sources, policy development, program evaluation, and client/population outcomes are examined. Students are introduced to the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research and Quality and Safety Education for Nurses.

NURS 510 Nursing Research Methods (2)

Refinement of the student's understanding of the research process, qualitative and quantitative research design and corresponding methods of analysis. Sampling theory, recruitment of participants, methods of

data collection, reliability and validity, and scientific rigor are explored. Students analyze, evaluate, and interpret studies contributing evidence for practice and knowledge development. Students will prepare a draft proposal for their directed graduate project.

NURS 512 Biostatistics for Advanced Nursing Practice (2)

This course emphasizes the development of competency in terminology, concepts, and correct uses and interpretation of biostatistics by the advanced practice nurse to include assessing the quality of observed data and collecting quality data. The use of biostatistics for research and evidence-based practice projects is highlighted and the intersection of biostatistics and epidemiology is explored. Exercises include critical appraisal of research methods and practical application of statistical software packages.

NURS 514 Epidemiology for Advanced Practice Nursing (3)

This course emphasizes the development of competency in epidemiology for advanced nursing practice. Methods studied include rates, levels of prevention, vital statistics, modes of transmission, and models of causation. Practice phenomena are explored using case examples and nursing and healthcare-related outcomes. Assessment of the quality of observed data and collection methods will be performed. The intersection of biostatistics and epidemiology is explored. Exercises include the application of epidemiologic approaches to disease surveillance, treatment, communication, and prevention.

NURS 598A (1), B (2), C (3) Directed Graduate Project

Refinement of a project proposal and completion of graduate project. Ideas for projects include the design, implementation and evaluation of an evidence-based innovation, completion of a grant proposal or evaluation of a product or procedure. Other ideas may be presented to the faculty for approval. Students may take 1, 2, or 3 project units at a time. *May be repeated for a total of three (3) units.*
Prerequisites: NURS 510 and advancement to candidacy.

NURS 599A (1), B (2), C (3) Graduate Thesis

Refinement of a proposal and completion of a graduate thesis using either quantitative or qualitative research methods. Students may take 1, 2 or 3 thesis units at a time. *May be repeated for a total of three (3) units.* *Prerequisites: NURS 510 and advancement to candidacy.*