



Professional Nursing Practicum and Project

NURS435

Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

Learners explore and reflect upon the application of the program outcomes and the knowledge and skills gained from their coursework as they explore, observe, and further experience nursing leadership and mentorship through practice hours (72 hours total to complete the program). While working with nurses in a leadership role, the nursing learner identifies, assists in providing leadership to, and participates in a clinically focused project that will refine clinical, leadership, analytical, decision making, project and task management, interpersonal, communication, and presentation skills. A project plan with expected outcomes is developed by the learner with possible guidance from the Program Director, faculty, Field Supervisor (Preceptor), or an authorized representative from the healthcare setting, if different from the Field Supervisor. The plan is developed and is approved by the Program Director or an authorized representative before the project begins. The Program Director or designee serves as an advisor throughout the project. The course will culminate in the preparation of two comprehensive projects: A scholarly, research-based, and comprehensive report on the outcome of the clinically focused project; and a detailed and substantiated presentation on how the learner has achieved the nursing program outcomes through his or her coursework, practicum, and professional nursing project.

Prerequisite: completion of all NURS courses (concurrent enrollment permitted with prior approval from the Nursing Director.) Credit 3 hours.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). (2008). [*The essentials of Baccalaureate education for professional nursing practice*](#). Washington, DC: Author.

III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has [learning outcomes specific to the Nursing Program](#), as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

Learning Outcome	Related Program Outcome(s)
1. Present evidence and artifacts from nursing courses to document achievement of the BSN program outcomes.	1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
2. Identify a healthcare issue and describe an evidence-based process for changing current practice.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
3. Conduct a literature review to identify practice issues which help to guide the selection of a professional project.	3, 6
4. Identify effective time-management and budgeting skills related to the professional nurse leader role.	5, 6, 7, 8, 10

Learning Outcome	Related Program Outcome(s)
5. Use interpersonal communication and presentation skills to articulate the results of a clinically focused project.	1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10
6. Explain how the BSN program outcomes can be applied to nursing leadership roles.	4, 6, 8, 10

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. [Course Policies](#)

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies found in the instructor-specific syllabus located in the Blackboard course.

V. [Course Requirements:](#)

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	5	100	10%
Annotated Bibliography	2	100	10%
Professional Nursing Project Final Project Paper	1	300	30%
Professional Nursing Project Final Project Presentation	1	300	30%
Reflective paper on Nursing Program Outcomes	1	200	20%
Total Points		1000	100%

VI. [Course at a Glance:](#)

Unit	Unit Learning Objectives	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due	Related Learning Outcomes
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct preliminary research to identify a problem area in healthcare. • Formulate research questions and problem statements to identify solutions for the healthcare problem. • Analyze literature for evidence-based practice related to project topic. • Recognize the leadership and management skills of effective nurse leaders. • Examine leadership concepts, skills, and decision-making needed by members of the inter-professional team to create a culture of safety and high quality nursing care. • Identify knowledge and tools available for effective time-management and budgeting. • Submit your Preceptor Information Form (if needed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read through the syllabus thoroughly • If needed, identify nurse leader (preceptor) for practicum and practice agency • Obtain approval of topic of Professional Project Assignment from course instructor/Director of Nursing prior to initiating research • Begin working on practicum hours. • Begin gathering research articles for Final Practicum Project • Begin working on your Nursing Program Outcomes Reflective Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 Discussion 	<p>2, 3, 4</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze and critique evidence-based research related to practicum topic. • Recognize the leadership and management skills of effective nurse leaders. • Examine leadership concepts, skills, and decision-making needed by members of the inter-professional team to create a culture of safety and high quality nursing care. • Identify knowledge and tools available for effective time-management and budgeting. • Discuss practicum experiences that can be incorporated into advanced nursing leadership roles. • Reflect on the knowledge gained in previous nursing courses that provided insight into the practicum experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working on practicum hours • Complete your first Annotated Bibliography on 5 research articles related to Professional Project • Continue working on your Nursing Program Outcomes Reflective Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 2 Discussion • Unit 2 Annotated Bibliography (first half) 	<p>1, 2, 3, 4, 6</p>

Unit	Unit Learning Objectives	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due	Related Learning Outcomes
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze and critique evidence-based research related to practicum topic. • Examine leadership concepts, skills, and decision-making needed by members of the inter-professional team to create a culture of safety and high quality nursing care. • Identify knowledge and tools available for effective time-management and budgeting. • Discuss practicum experiences that can be incorporated into advanced nursing leadership roles. • Reflect on the knowledge gained in previous nursing courses that provided insight into the practicum experience. • Recognize the leadership and management skills of effective nurse leaders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working on practicum hours • Complete your first Annotated Bibliography on 5 research articles related to Professional Project • Continue working on your Nursing Program Outcomes Reflective Paper and your Professional Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 3 Discussion • Unit 3 Annotated Bibliography (second half) 	<p>1, 2, 3, 4, 6</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the leadership and management skills of effective nurse leaders. • Examine leadership concepts, skills, and decision-making needed by members of the inter-professional team to create a culture of safety and high quality nursing care. • Identify knowledge and tools available for effective time-management and budgeting. • Discuss practicum experiences that can be incorporated into advanced nursing leadership roles. • Reflect on the knowledge gained in previous nursing courses that provided insight into the practicum experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working on practicum hours • Complete your Nursing Program Outcomes Reflective Paper • Continue working on your Professional Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 4 Discussion • Nursing Program Outcomes Reflective Paper 	<p>1, 4, 6</p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate concepts of theory and practice into practicum project. • Communicate findings of practicum project in a scholarly paper that is based on evidence-based clinical practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working on practicum hours • Complete Professional Project Final Paper Assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 5 Discussion • Professional Project Final Paper 	<p>1, 4, 6</p>

Unit	Unit Learning Objectives	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due	Related Learning Outcomes
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify personal and professional goals for a future in nursing as they relate to the BSN outcomes. • Use effective communication skills to articulate findings of practicum project to nursing faculty and students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Professional Project Final Presentation • Complete practicum hours • Submit completed Practicum Hours Documentation Form • Submit completed Preceptor Evaluation of Student Form (student may submit below or preceptor may email to instructor) • Complete and submit Student Evaluation of Preceptor Form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Project Presentation 	1, 2, 5, 6

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.