

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER  
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

**NURS 4330  
Contemporary Issues in Nursing Practice  
RN Refresher**

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## RN REFRESHER

### NURS 4330: Contemporary Issues in Nursing Practice

#### PURPOSE

This WEB based course is designed to prepare the inactive professional registered nurse (RN) in the State of Texas to re-enter the practice arena. It is structured to update the RN's knowledge of nursing process, pharmacology, documentation in the medical record, legal and ethical foundations of nursing practice, and the role of the professional nurse. The course meets the requirements of the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners.

#### OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the RN Refresher Course the participant will have gained the ability to:

1. Integrate the nursing process as a method of critical thinking and use as the framework for provision of patient care.
2. Apply knowledge of pharmacological principles to ensure safe delivery of medications in a clinical setting.
3. Use critical thinking to analyze ethical/legal principles as they relate to competent delivery of patient care.
4. Demonstrate safe, effective nursing practice in a medical/surgical clinical setting.
5. Understand the essential questions the professional nurse must answer to be accountable to the patient and public.
6. Evaluate oneself on accountability in the professional nurse role.

#### TO ENROLL IN THE COURSE THE RN WILL:

1. Contact the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners (512-305-6809) and apply for a temporary permit to practice and the paperwork that will be completed when all the requirements are met.
2. Apply to the University and submit official transcripts from all schools attended. On the application check that you are a **non-degree seeking** student.
3. The cost of the course is equivalent to that of a 3-semester credit hour course.
4. Upon receipt of the packet from the Board, mail the sheet titled RN Refresher Course/Extensive Orientation/Academic Nursing Courses and a copy of the temporary permit to Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Nursing Programs.
5. Copy of your most recent license if you still have it.
6. Malpractice insurance paid through UT Tyler.
7. Complete the American Heart Association CPR course. Contact any local hospital's education department.
8. Current TB skin test result.

#### THEORY COMPONENT

The theory component of the Refresher Course is organized in six modules. Exams will be completed as directed on the WEB site. The RN will notify the instructor when adequate review has been completed and access to the exam is requested. Exams will

include short answer and multiple-choice questions based on the content of the material presented in the modules.

Upon completion of the course the student will be assigned a course grade. Grading for the course will be based on the grading structure of the College of Nursing. Grades are assessed on the following scale:

- A 90 -100
- B 80-89
- C 75-79
- D 60-74
- F 60 and below

**The modules include:**

**A. ROLE OF THE NURSE**

This module provides current information on the role of the nurse in an ever-changing health care environment. Influences on the nursing environment, accountability to the public, and future perspectives is presented.

Upon completion of the module the RN will be able to:

1. Identify factors in the environment that constitute the milieu in which nursing is practiced
2. List some current developments in nursing and health care that have increased accountability in nursing
3. Identify forces that will direct change in health care and the future of nursing

**B. LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN NURSING**

This module presents information about the legal and ethical implications related to accountability in healthcare. The Code for Nurses with Interpretative Statements (2001) is used as a foundation for discussion. Ethical decision-making is presented and how the process works. The legal boundaries of the professional nurse are discussed. You will access the Texas Nurse Practice Act and become familiar with certain areas.

Upon completion of the module the RN will be able to:

1. Define the terms used in ethics
2. Apply the steps of ethical decision-making in the analysis of an ethical case study
3. Analyze the relationship between accountability and liability for one's actions as a professional nurse
4. Outline the essential elements that must be substantiated to prove malpractice/negligence
5. Differentiate between intentional and unintentional torts
6. Analyze various components of the Texas Nurse Practice Act

**C. NURSING PROCESS**

This module provides material concerning the use of the nursing process in the delivery of care. Nursing process is presented in the context of critical thinking in nursing.

Upon completion of this module the RN will be able to:

1. Correlate the critical thinking process and nursing process
2. Implement the nursing process as a method of problem solving and planning
3. Develop an appropriate plan of care form a patient data sheet

#### **D. DOCUMENTATION**

Effective communication among healthcare providers is essential to the coordination and continuity of care. The patient record is the only permanent legal document that details the nurse's interaction with the patient and is the nurses' best defense if a patient alleges nursing negligence.

Upon completion of this module the RN will be able to:

1. Describe the various documentation formats to communicate patient care outcomes
2. Document appropriate data on a patient's chart during a clinical experience
3. Document following the standards of care with thought to legal expectations

#### **E. PHARMACOLOGY**

The role of the nurse regarding medication administration is very important. This module addresses the elements necessary to be a safe practitioner when delivering medications. Information is presented concerning the nurse and drug therapy, dosage calculations, and an overview of pharmacotherapeutics.

Upon completion of this module the RN will be able to:

1. List the rights of medication administration
2. Discuss the role of the nurse in regard to drug therapy
3. Identify special considerations for administering drugs to women, children, and the geriatric population
4. Calculate medication dosages, volumes, amounts, and intravenous rates and infusions correctly
5. Identify the major drug classifications
6. Describe major actions and nursing implications associated with selected drugs

#### **F. TRANSCULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL ISSUES**

In addition to the content required by the BNE, this module on cultural and spiritual issues addresses the important role the nurse plays in assisting patients to cope with illness. The content focuses on how the nurse can provide more holistic care by attaining cultural competence and making appropriate spiritual assessments.

Upon completion of this module the RN will be able to:

1. Describe how cultural competence decreases the potential of ethical dilemmas.
2. Discuss how cultural variations impact the nurses' response to provide care.
3. Describe the nurses' role in providing spiritual care.

**CLINICAL COMPONENT**

The RN will complete 80 hours of preceptored clinical experience on a general medical/surgical unit. The faculty member will arrange the clinical experience in a local acute care facility that is utilized by the College of Nursing. Upon completion of the clinical experience the contact person at the clinical facility will submit a letter documenting successful completion of the clinical experience to the faculty member.

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION**

A certificate of completion will be awarded to the RN upon successful completion of the theory and clinical components of the course. The RN will also receive a grade report from the University. In addition, the paperwork documenting completion will be forwarded to the appropriate component at the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners.