



**Diagnostic Methods and Procedures
NURS 5339
Fall 2025**

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

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Office Hours: Virtual office hours will be on **Mondays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.** The Zoom link can be found in Canvas under the Getting Started Module. You are expected to have your camera on during all Zoom meetings. Recorded office hours will be posted when available.

Contacting me: The best way to contact me is via email. Please email me directly from your patriots email. **Do not email me through Canvas. I do not always receive emails via Canvas, and I cannot easily respond to emails via Canvas.** Please allow at least a **24 hour response time** (longer on weekends and holidays). **If it is urgent**, you may also text or call me at the number provided in Canvas. If you call and expect me to return your call, **please leave a voicemail with your name, the course you are calling about, and a good personal callback number.** Do not leave a work number. Please use discretion regarding the timing of texts and phone calls. Calls or texts received after 5 p.m. may not be returned until the next business day at my discretion.

Course Description: Selected clinical procedures, diagnostic laboratory, and imaging tests utilized by Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) are explored. Evidence-based clinical decision-making for selecting appropriate tests or procedures and interpreting diagnostic tests are evaluated.

Prerequisites: [NURS 5352](#), Pre-Requisite or Co-Requisite of [NURS 5354](#) AND Admission to MSN NP or [NURS 5352](#), Pre-Requisite or Co-Requisite of [NURS 5354](#) AND Admission to the NP Cert program.

Corequisites: Pre-Requisite or Co-Requisite of [NURS 5354](#) AND Admission to MSN NP or Pre-Requisite or Co-Requisite of [NURS 5354](#) AND Admission to the NP Cert program.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Integrate diagnostic test selection and interpretation to support clinical decision-making in advanced practice nursing.

2. Apply ethical, legal, financial, and regulatory principles when selecting, performing, and evaluating diagnostic tests and procedures to ensure safe, high-quality, person-centered care.
3. Incorporate scientific evidence, theories, and knowledge from nursing and related disciplines into diagnostic reasoning and procedural decision-making.
4. Utilize healthcare technologies to enhance diagnostic accuracy, improve communication, and support coordination of care across teams and settings.
5. Incorporate population health principles into diagnostic decision-making to support prevention, early detection, and management of conditions across diverse patient populations.

Required and Recommended Textbooks and Readings:

Author	Title	Edition	Publisher/ISBN	Status
Campo et al. (2021)	Essential Procedures for Emergency, Urgent, and Primary Care Settings	3rd	Springer/ 978-0826141048	Required
Pagana et al. (2021)	Mosby's: A Manual of Diagnostic & Laboratory Tests	7th	Mosby/ 978-0323697033	Required
Farrell (2019)	Radiology 101: The Basics and Fundamentals of Imaging	5th	LWW/ 978-1496392985	Required
Slater (2021)	Pocketbook of Differential Diagnosis	5th	Elsevier/ 978-0702077777	Required
Mastenbjork & Meloni (2024)	EKG/ECG Interpretation: Everything You Need to Know About 12-Lead EKG/ECG Interpretation and How to Diagnose and Treat Arrhythmias	2nd	Medical Creations/ 978-1734741353	Required
Muniz (2019)	Sparkson's Illustrated Guide to ECG Interpretation	2nd	Medcomic/ 978-0996651370	Recommended

Important Course Dates:

Census Date: 9/10/25

Intensive Days: 10/6-7/25; 11/3-4/25

Holidays: Labor Day 9/1/25; Thanksgiving Week 11/24-28/25 (Offices closed)

Last Date to Withdraw: 11/4/25

Last Day of Course: - 12/13/25 (All assignments will need to be completed before this date)

Special Course Notes: Exams are timed and must be completed within a specific four-hour testing period (6 a.m. - 10 a.m.) on the scheduled date. Exceptions are made for extenuating circumstances only and are at the discretion of the faculty. Faculty must be notified **immediately** for exceptions to be made. Failure to notify faculty promptly will result in a zero for the missed exam.

Mandatory Intensive Dates: Intensive days are held on campus twice during the semester: Intensives #1 (2 days) and Intensives #2 (2 days) for a total of 4 days. **Intensive dates are required for successful completion of this course, and there is no excuse for missing them unless there is an emergency and the faculty is notified immediately, understanding that they will have to be made up the following semester. Make-up intensives will not be scheduled in the same semester.** Vacations, dog shows, sporting games, weddings, concert tickets, work schedules, recitals, church camp, school field trips, etc., are not emergencies.

Electronic Subscriptions

Derm for Primary Care (Required): Derm for Primary Care (DFPC) is a large body of modules, questions, and exams related to dermatology issues, expanding on dermatology presentations in acute and chronic diseases. You will use this across your courses. This is generally purchased in a prior course, but purchasing information will be available if needed. There is an assignment based on the successful completion of the Derm modules, and you will get a grade for this.

UpToDate (Recommended): This is free through the school. It is a great resource for drugs, labs, and disease processes that you can use across the program.

Epocrates (Not required): This is an app that can be downloaded onto your mobile devices. It is a valuable resource for drugs, dosage calculations (especially pediatric dosing), labs, and disease processes. This app is not provided through the school, and usage requires a subscription. They do offer student discounts with a school email.

Office Hours: Office hours are provided weekly and allow you to interact with faculty for more information regarding the course and concerns or to go over subjects you may be struggling with. As this is asynchronous learning, you are not required to attend office hours; however, it is a way for you to engage with faculty and to get information related to assignments, tests, etc.

If you do not attend office hours, it is recommended that you view and listen to any recordings if they are available.

Required Course Technology

*Respondus LockDown Browser will be used to proctor the exams for this course. **UT Tyler will pay for this technology.*** You will need to download the browser. If you have not already installed the browser, please download it from here: [\[Download Respondus LockDown Browser\]](#)

To use LockDown Browser, you will need the following:

- High-speed internet connection (not dial-up)
- Webcam and microphone (internal and external)
- Windows, Mac, or Chrome Operating System
- Up-to-date Chrome browser and ProctorU extension installed
- Valid photo ID (Driver's License or State Issued ID)
- Quiet environment to take your exam
- A lamp by the side of your monitor/computer for good lighting

All exams are proctored using LockDown Browser. Hats, sunglasses, headphones, earbuds, smart watches, or phones are prohibited unless permitted by faculty. Texts or other resources are prohibited unless the faculty specifically states so in the test instructions. No food or drinks are allowed while testing.

You will need an external high definition (1080p) webcam with a tripod. An external webcam with a tripod is required to meet the video monitoring requirements for each test. An external webcam is one that is separate from your computer or laptop. Logitech tends to be a good brand, but any high-definition external webcam is acceptable. Retail cost: \$30.00 to \$160.00

Assignments and Weights/Percentages

Criteria for Evaluation:	Percentage of Grade:
Module Exams	50%
Radiology Modules/Screen shots	5%
Papers: Procedure Writeup and Workup Paper	30%
Discussion Board: Procedure Peer Review	5%
Intensive #1 Attendance	Pass/Fail
Intensive #2 Attendance	Pass/Fail
Syllabus Quiz	Pass/Fail
Derm For Primary Care Module/Quiz	10%, must be over 80 average

Grading Scale:

Specific guidelines and grading criteria for all assignments are in the Modules. Final grades for the course will be determined based upon the following point assignments:

A - 90-100

B - 80-89

C - 70-79

D - 60-69

F - Below 60

Grades will not be rounded when calculating the average (79.5 is not rounded to 80, and 89.5 is not rounded to 90). **The simple average of all exam grades, including a final, must be at or above 80% to pass the course.** Once the student has achieved a simple unit exam average of 80% or higher, course grades will be determined based on the weighted calculation of exams and other required coursework. **Students must achieve an average of 80% (B) to complete the course successfully.**

Although the university policy allows 60 days for grade appeals, the School of Nursing follows a stricter timeline of 10 days to facilitate students' timely progression through the curriculum. In the case of extenuating circumstances, please consult the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for guidance.

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any kind, as defined in Section 8 of the UT Tyler Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) for Student Affairs (<https://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/>), will not be tolerated. Consequences may include:

- reprimand
- exam failure
- course failure
- expulsion from the Nursing program
- expulsion from the University
- other consequences as assigned

Artificial Intelligence (AI):

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. **You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity.**

The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

Some assignments in this course will permit using artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT or Copilot. **When AI use is permissible, it will be documented in the assignment description, and all use of AI must be appropriately acknowledged and cited.** When using AI tools for assignments, add an appendix showing (a) the entire exchange (e.g., prompts used), highlighting the most relevant sections; (b) a description of precisely which AI tools were used, (c) an explanation of how the AI tools were used (e.g. to generate ideas, elements of text, etc.); and (d) an account of why AI tools were used (e.g. to save time, to surmount writer's block, to stimulate thinking, to experiment for fun, etc.). **Students shall not use AI tools during examinations or assignments unless explicitly permitted and instructed to do so.**

<https://www.uttyler.edu/digital-learning/ai/>

Exam and homework materials, questions, and problems are the intellectual property of faculty, UT Tyler, or publishers.

- These materials may not be distributed without permission.
- Distributing or uploading them to online resources destroys the integrity of the assignment and the course, allowing others an unfair advantage by letting them view the materials.
- Uploading these materials to online resources is a violation of UT Tyler's academic misconduct policies and may result in formal conduct charges.
- Sanctions for uploading or otherwise divulging the contents of these materials can include:
 - a reduced or failing grade on an assignment
 - a reduced or failing grade for the course
 - removal from the Nursing program
 - removal from UT Tyler

Late Policy: 5% will be deducted each day an assignment is past due unless prior arrangements have been made with your course faculty. Extenuating circumstances may apply and at the discretion of faculty. Late assignments will not be accepted after one week unless previously approved by faculty.

Missed Assignments Policy: All course assignments are required components of this course and must be completed to receive a passing grade. If an assignment is missed, a grade of zero will be recorded and will remain as the final grade for that assignment. However, the assignment must still be completed and submitted, regardless of the grade penalty, to satisfy course completion requirements. Failure to submit all required coursework may result in a course failure, regardless of the final grade average.

Repeating a Course: Students repeating this course may not use previously submitted assignments nor utilize the same patients for an assignment. Submitting the same or slightly

modified assignments from previous semesters is considered self-plagiarism and is subject to academic discipline, including failing the assignment or the course.

Attendance and Make-up Policy: Attendance/participation is expected. Make-up for exams, quizzes, assignments, and missed clinical time is at the instructor's discretion.

Graded Course Requirements Information:

1. There are five exams aligned with the module content in Canvas. All exams must be proctored.
2. A syllabus quiz that tests your knowledge of the syllabus and resources available to students. It is an open-book quiz.
3. Intensive On-Campus days are mandatory and are usually considered fun. These consist of interactive lectures and performing procedures.
4. A Procedure Write-up Paper will include information you have learned through your text and Intensives on how to write up a patient injury and the type of repair you would do.
5. You will have a workup paper with a complaint, HPI, ROS, and a medical history with a physical exam. Based on these findings and your resources, you will “work up” the patient to produce an assessment and plan for the patient.
6. The *Derm for Primary Care* module overviews common office procedures and tests your knowledge.
7. Radiology modules are a self-paced lecture series with post-tests that cover a wide variety of radiology material. Not all modules have a post-test.

Please Note: Detailed information and grading rubrics for course assignments will be provided in Canvas.

Course Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates/Times: Subject to change based on the needs of the course.

Week/Module	Assignment	Due Date/Time (all times are Central Time)
Weeks 1-3/Getting Started & Module 1 Laboratory & Diagnostic Testing	Course opens	8/28/25
Holiday: Labor Day	Offices closed	No assignments due
	Zoom orientation	Live: 9/2/25, 7:00 pm Recorded Due: 9/7/25, 11:59 pm
	Syllabus Quiz Grad Student Affirmation Professionalism, Late Assignments, Missed Test Attestation	9/7/25, 11:59 pm 9/7/25, 11:59 pm 9/7/25, 11:59 pm

	Discussion Board - Introductions (required)	Initial post due by 9/4/25, 11:59 pm; Peer response due by 9/7/25, 11:59 pm
	Intro to Work-Up Paper	Paper due 11/2/25, 11:59 pm
Census Date		9/10/25
	Exam 1	9/15/25, 6:00 am - 10:00 am
Weeks 4-5/Module 2 Differential Diagnoses	Exam 2	9/29/25, 6:00 am - 10:00 am
Weeks 6-7/Module 3 Intensive 1 & Intro to Radiology	Intensives 1 (On-Campus) Days 1 and 2	10/6/25 & 10/7/25 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
	Exam 3	10/13/25, 6:00 am - 10:00 am
Weeks 8-9/Module 4 Intro to Radiology Cont.	Radiology Screenshots	10/26/25, 11:59 pm
	Workup Paper	11/2/25, 11:59 pm
Weeks 10-12/Module 5 Intensive 2 & Intro to Procedures	Intensive 2 (On-Campus) Days 1 and 2	11/3/25 & 11/4/25 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Last Date to Withdraw		11/4/25
	Exam 4	11/10/25, 6:00 am - 10:00 am
	Derm for Primary Care: Common Office Procedures Modules	11/16/25, 11:59 pm
	Procedure Paper	11/23/25, 11:59 pm
	DB: Peer Procedure Review	Initial post due: 11/21/25, 11:59 pm; Peer response due: 11/23/25, 11:59 pm
Week 13 Holiday	Thanksgiving	No assignments due
Weeks 14-15/Module 6 EKGs and Course Wrap-Up	Exam 5	12/8/25, 6:00 am - 10:00 am
Last day of course	ALL assignments must be submitted prior to this date	12/11/25

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:

https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

Student Resources and University Policies are provided in Canvas.