



## Evidence-Based Decision Making Syllabus

**NURS 4329: UG BSN**

**Fall 2025**

### Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online Course

**Instructor's Name:** Vicki Jowell, MSN, RN, ACUE (section .060)

**Office:** Virtual

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**Office Hours:** Monday 11:00 am – 2:00 pm or by appointment set up via canvas messaging or email to meet in person or online via Teams or Zoom.

\*Best way to contact me

**Instructor's Name:** Kayla Kelly, MSN, RN (section .061)

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**Instructor's Name:** Tammy Cole, MSN, RN (section .062)

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**Instructor's Name:** Gina Dudley, DNP, RN, ACUE (section .063)

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**Course Description:** This course will focus on synthesis and application of evidence, along with clinical expertise and patient values, to improve patient outcomes.

#### Prerequisites:

**Undergraduate BSN Students:** Completion of Level 2 courses.

#### Corequisites:

**Concurrent Students:** Enrollment in an approved ADN Program.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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

- 1) Professionalism: Demonstrate and apply professional and ethical behavior.
- 2) Patient-Centered Care: Differentiate an individualized plan of care for patients who are acutely ill and for patients of special populations.
- 3) Evidenced-Based Practice (EBP): Synthesize and apply evidence to evaluate and improve patient outcomes.
- 4) Informatics & Technology: Apply informatics and technology in new environments.
- 5) Quality Improvement: Critique the effectiveness of quality improvement using a systematic data-guided approach.
- 6) Teamwork and Collaboration: Appraise the effectiveness of teamwork and mutual respect with different communication styles.
- 7) Wellness and Prevention: Critique health, wellness, and prevention programs and their impact on a variety of communities and populations.
- 8) Leadership: Differentiate between leadership styles and how each impact professional practice.
- 9) Safety: Appraise safety and quality measures implemented in the work environment.
- 10) Strengths: Analyze how strengths (signature talent themes) influence the role of the student nurse and clinical decision-making.

**Required Textbooks and Readings:**

American Journal of Nursing EBP Step-by-Step Series:

<http://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Pages/collectiondetails.aspx?TopicalCollectionId=10>

**Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values:**

Weighted Categories	Items	Percentage
<b>Engagement Activities</b>	Undergraduate forms Video Introduction APA Quiz Module 1 – 5 Quizzes Chump Assignment	<b>25%</b>
<b>Discussion Boards</b>	DB: Ethics Ms. Ever's Boys: Reflection DB: CFP (Patient Preferences & Clinical Expertise)	<b>20%</b>
<b>Learning Activities</b>	CITI Training EBP Step 1 Learning Activity EBP Step 2 Learning Activity EBP Step 3 Learning Activities GAO & RCA EBP Step 4 & 5 Learning Activity EBP Step 6 Learning Activity	<b>55%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

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

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

Final course grades less than 75% are not rounded up. Course grades will be determined based on the weighted calculation of quizzes and other required coursework.

**Grade Appeals:** 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

**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

**Artificial Intelligence in coursework:** This course has specific assignments where artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT or Copilot) are permitted and encouraged. When AI use is permissible, it will be clearly stated in the assignment directions, and all use of AI must be appropriately acknowledged and cited. Otherwise, the default is that AI is not allowed during any stage of an assignment.

**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.

**Because there is a testing window for quizzes, there will be no extensions on time for taking these.** Please plan carefully. Extenuating circumstances may apply.

**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. Before any scheduling of a makeup exam will be made the student must provide a written document from the treating healthcare provider, or the funeral director, or paperwork from the clerk of the court (legal issue).

**Grade Replacement:** Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.utt Tyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

#### **Graded Course Requirements Information:**

**Participation:** This includes interacting during optional Zoom sessions, completing the required forms on Canvas, and engaging in quality discussions on the discussion boards (see **Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values for breakdown**).

**Learning activities:** These assignments are created to guide your learning and build your knowledge base of Evidence-Based Decision Making. These assignments will be graded on both effort and demonstration of a BASIC knowledge of the EBDM process. Further information will be provided each week during class, and all assignments will be interactive with feedback from peers and instructors. (see **Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values for breakdown**)

**Quizzes:** These include assessments to test your basic knowledge of the EBDM process. Quizzes will be given online through Canvas (see **Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values for breakdown**)

#### **Important Course Dates:**

Note: The complete course schedule is available on the Course Canvas site.

**Course preview days:** August 28, 2025

**15-week Classes Begin:** September 2, 2025

**Census Date (withdraw without penalty):** September 10, 2025

**Last Date to Withdraw:** November 4, 2025

**For forms from the Office of the Registrar:** <https://www.utt Tyler.edu/registrar/forms/>

**Final Exam Date:** n/a in this course

**End of 15-week Classes:** December 13, 2025

#### **Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates:**

Weeks	Date	Class Topic	Readings	Assignment Due*
Preview course	Thursday 8/28 – 8/31	Course preview and begin	No assigned Readings	No Assignments due for Pre-course <i>*Assignments are typically due the Monday following the Module weeks</i>

				<i>listed, with the exceptions of the final 2 weeks*. Review/record all dates.</i>
<b>1-2</b>	Monday – Sunday 9/2 – 9/14 <b>Labor Day 9/1</b>	Orientation Research Ethics Clinical Practice Guidelines	<b>Canvas Orientation Module 1</b> The Belmont Report Declaration of Helsinki Nuremberg Code NIH Clinical Practice Guidelines website	<b>Video Introduction – due 9/15/25</b> <b>APA Learning – due 9/15/25</b> <b>APA Quiz – due 9/15/25</b>  <b>*Begin CITI Training*- due 10/14/25</b>  <b>Nursing student forms – *due 9/8/25</b> <b>*Census date 9/10/25*</b>
<b>3-4</b>	Monday – Sunday  9/15 – 9/28	Spirit of Inquiry Sources of information Basic Research Terms	Watch the Film Ms. Evers Boys <b>Canvas Module 2</b> Igniting a Spirit of Inquiry: An Essential Foundation for EBP Seven Steps of EBP CHUMP Study	Ethics video reflection to Ms. Evers' Boys- <b>due – 9/29/25</b>  Ethics Discussion board – <b>due 9/29/25</b> - with peer response, RISE model  <b>Module 1 Quiz – due 9/29/25</b>
	Wednesday 9/24			Discussion board Initial Response – <b>due 9/24/25</b> ; peer response - <b>due 9/29/25</b>
<b>5-6</b>	Monday – Sunday  9/29 – 10/12	Asking the Clinical Question: PICOT The Search for Evidence & Search strategy	<b>Canvas Module 3</b> Asking the Clinical Question: A Key Step in EBP Searching for the Evidence: Strategies to Conduct a Successful Search	CHUMP Assignment – <b>due 10/14/25</b>  <b>Module 2 Quiz – due 10/14/25</b>  <b>*CITI Training* - due 10/14/25</b>
<b>7-8</b>	Monday – Sunday  10/14 – 10/26  <b>Columbus Day 10/13</b>	Critical Appraisal of the Evidence Research Terminology	<b>Canvas Module 4</b> Critical Appraisal of the Evidence: Part I Critical Appraisal of the Evidence: Part II Dincer & Inangil: The Effect of Emotional Freedom Techniques on Nurses' Stress, Anxiety, and Burnout Levels During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Randomized Controlled Trial Shin et al.: Effects of Short-Term Inhalation of Patchouli Oil on Professional Quality of Life and Stress Levels in Emergency Nurses: A	<u>EBP Step 1</u> : PICOT Formulation – <b>due 10/27/25</b>  <u>EBP Step 2</u> : Search strategy for Evidence – <b>due 10/27/25</b>  <b>Module 3 Quiz – due 10/27/25</b>  Midterm Survey – <b>(does not count toward grade)</b>

			Randomized Controlled Trial	
<b>9-10</b>	Monday – Sunday  10/27 – 11/9	Critical Appraisal of Qualitative Evidence Integrate the Evidence Patient Preferences, Values, and Clinician Expertise	<b>Canvas Module 5</b> Critical Appraisal of the Evidence: Part III Following the Evidence: Planning for Sustainable Change Muscat et al.: Can Adults with Low Literacy Understand Shared Decision Making Questions? A Qualitative Investigation	EBP Step 3: General Appraisal Overview (GAO) Assignment – <b>due 11/10/25</b>  <b>Module 4 Quiz – due 11/10/25</b>  <i><b>*11/4/25 - Last Day to Withdraw from one or more courses*</b></i>
<b>11-12</b>	Monday – Sunday  11/10 – 11/23  Veteran's Day 11/11  Thanksgiving Week 11/24 – 11/28	Summarizing the Evidence Evaluation of Outcomes	<b>Canvas Module 6</b> Implementing an Evidence-Based Practice Change Rolling Out the Rapid Response Team Evaluating and Disseminating the Impact of an Evidence-Based Intervention: Show and Tell	EBP Step 3: Rapid Critical Analysis (RCA) Assignment - <b>due 12/1/25</b>  Discussion Board: Patient Preferences & Clinical Expertise (Initial Response) – <b>due 11/19/25</b> ; with peer response <b>12/1/25</b> (with RISE model)  <b>Module 5 Quiz – due 12/1/25</b>
	Wednesday 11/19			Discussion board Initial Response – <b>due 11/19/25</b> ; peer response - <b>due 12/1/25</b>
<b>13-14</b>	Monday – Sunday  12/1 – 12/12	Dissemination of the EBP Results: Sustaining EBP through Policy	<b>Canvas Module 7</b> Evaluating and Disseminating the Impact of an Evidence-Based Intervention: Show and Tell Sustaining Evidence-Based Practice Through Organizational Policies and an Innovative Model	EBP Steps 4 & 5: Integrate and Evaluate Assignment – <b>due 12/8/25</b>  EBP Step 6: Evaluate & Dissemination Assignment – <b>due 12/10/25</b>  <b>*Course Evaluation* - we value your feedback.</b>
	Saturday 12/13	<b>End of Course</b>		

Fall 2025 semester

**School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information can be found at the website below.**

[https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student\\_guide\\_and\\_policies.php](https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php)

**Student Resources to assist you in this course:**

[UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource \(SAR\) Office](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)

[UT Tyler Writing Center](#)

[The Mathematics Learning Center](#)

[UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center](#)

[UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction](#)

[Upswing \(24/7 online tutoring\) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas](#)

[Robert Muntz Library](#) and [Library Liaison](#)

[Canvas 101](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)

Digital Support Toolkit (for supported courses only. Students are automatically enrolled in the toolkit for supported courses)

LIB 422 - Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam

[The Career Success Center](#)

[UT Tyler Testing Center](#)

[Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab](#)

**Resources available to UT Tyler Students**

[UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)

[TAO Online Support Center](#) (online self-help modules related to mental & emotional health)

[Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (support for all of our military-affiliated students)

[UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)

[UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)

[UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)

[Office of International Programs](#)

[Title IX Reporting](#)

[Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

**University Policies and Information**

**Withdrawing from Class:** Students are allowed to [withdraw](#) (drop) this course through the University's withdrawal portal. Texas law prohibits students who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Make sure to consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress as well as the financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and financial aid for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms.

**Final Exam Policy:** Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members are required to maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

**Incomplete Grade Policy:** If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average for a student.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to complete all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has not been assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F or NC if the course was originally taken under the CR/NC grading basis.

**Grade Appeal Policy:** UT Tyler's Grade Appeal policy requires the completion of a Grade Appeal form for this action to take place. The grade appeal begins with the instructor of your course. If you do not agree with the decision of the instructor, you may then move your appeal to the department chair/school director for that course. If you are still dissatisfied with the decision of the chair/director, you may move the appeal to the dean of the college offering that course, who has the final decision. Grade appeals must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade. The grade Appeal form is found on the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

**Disability/Accessibility Services:** The University of Texas at Tyler has a continuing commitment to providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who may need accommodation(s) in order to fully participate in this class are urged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources Office (SAR) as soon as possible to explore what arrangements need to be made to ensure access. If you have a disability, you are encouraged to visit the SAR Portal (<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/>) and complete the New Student Application. For more information, please visit the [SAR webpage](#) or call 903.566.7079.

**Military Affiliated Students:** UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with me if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make me aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. I am willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. Campus resources for military-affiliated students are in the [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#). The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

**Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct:** The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

**FERPA:** UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements in protecting your confidential information.

**COVID Guidance:** The UT Tyler community of Patriots respects the rights of others to wear a mask if they desire to do so. COVID guidelines may change as the situation warrants, and students should follow the instructions warranted by the situation. *"It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who don't feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get tested for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure ([CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines](#)). Please work with your faculty members to maintain coursework and please consult [existing campus resources](#) for support".*

**Absence for Official University Events or Activities:** This course follows the practices related to approved absences as noted by the Student Manual of Operating Procedures ([Sec. 1 -501](#)).

**Absence for Religious Holidays:** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious holiday are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Campus Carry:** We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.