Evidence-Based Decision-Making Syllabus
NURS 4329: UG BSN
Spring 2026
Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online Course

Instructor's Name: Vicki Jowell, MSN, RN, ACUE (section .060)
Office: Virtual
Phone: 903-566-7320
Email: vjowell@uttyler.edu or canvas messaging*
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: TBD
Office:
Phone:
Email:
Office Hours: By appointment, email, conference call, and/or
Zoom.
*Best way to contact me

Instructor's Name: TBD
Office:
Phone:
Email:
Office Hours: By appointment, email, conference call, and/or
Zoom.
*Best way to contact me

Instructor's Name: TBD
Office:
Phone:
Email:
Office Hours: By appointment, email, conference call, and/or
Zoom.
*Best way to contact me

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

APA Manual 7th Edition (free – link below):
Here is the link: https://stylemanual.apa.org/dashboard (create an account)

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values:

Weighted Categories	Items	Percentage
Engagement Activities	*Undergraduate forms *Video Introduction *APA Quiz *Module 1 – 5 Quizzes *Chump Assignment	**25%**
Discussion Boards	*DB: Ethics (Ms. Ever's Boys: Reflection) *DB: CFP (Patient Preferences & Clinical Expertise)	**20%**
Learning Activities	*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 (AIE) *EBP Step 6 Learning Activity	**55%**
	Total	**100%**

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 passed 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.uttyler.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: 1/8/26 – 1/11/26
15-week Classes Begin: 1/12/26
Census Date (withdraw without penalty): 1/21/26
Last Date to Withdraw: 3/24/26
For forms from the Office of the Registrar: https://www.uttyler.edu/registrar/forms/
Final Exam Date: n/a in this course
End of 15-week Classes: 4/25/26

NURS 4329: Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates: Spring 2026

Weeks	Date	Class Topic	Readings	Assignment Due*
Preview course	Thursday 1/8 - 1/11	Course preview and begin	No assigned Readings	**No Assignments due for Pre-course** *Assignments are typically due the Monday following the Module weeks listed, with the exceptions of the final 2 weeks*.* *Review/record all dates.*
1-2	Monday – Sunday 1/12 – 1/25 MLK holiday 1/19/26	Orientation Research Ethics Clinical Practice Guidelines	**Canvas Orientation Module 1** The Belmont Report Declaration of Helsinki Nuremberg Code NIH Clinical Practice Guidelines website	**Video Introduction – due 1/26/26** **APA Learning – due 1/26/26** **APA Quiz – due 1/26/26** *Begin CITI Training*- due 2/23/26* *Nursing student forms – *due 1/20/26* *Census date 1/21/26*
3-4	Monday – Sunday 1/26 – 2/8	Spirit of Inquiry Sources of information Basic Research Terms	Watch the Film Ms. Evers Boys **Canvas Module 2** Igniting a Spirit of Inquiry: An Essential Foundation for EBP Seven Steps of EBP CHUMP Study	Ethics video reflection to Ms. Evers' Boys- **due – 2/9/26** Ethics Discussion board – **due 2/9/26** (with peer response, RISE model) **Module 1 Quiz – due 2/9/26**
	Wednesday 2/4/26			Discussion board Initial Response – **due 2/4/26;** peer response - **due 2/9/26**
5-6	Monday – Sunday 2/9 – 2/22	Asking the Clinical Question: PICOT The Search for Evidence & Search strategy	**Canvas Module 3** Asking the Clinical Question: A Key Step in EBP Searching for the Evidence: Strategies to Conduct a Successful Search	CHUMP Assignment – **due 2/23/26** **Module 2 Quiz – due 2/23/26** *CITI Training* - due 2/23/26*

7-8	Monday – Sunday 2/23 – 3/8 Spring Break 3/9 – 3/13	Critical Appraisal of the Evidence Research Terminology	**Canvas Module 4** 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 Randomized Controlled Trial	EBP Step 1: PICOT Formulation – **due 3/16/26** EBP Step 2: Search strategy for Evidence – **due 3/16/26** **Module 3 Quiz – due 3/16/26** Midterm Survey **– (does not count toward grade) – due 3/16/26**
9-10	Monday – Sunday 3/16 – 3/29	Critical Appraisal of Qualitative Evidence Integrate the Evidence Patient Preferences, Values, and Clinician Expertise	**Canvas Module 5** 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 – **due 3/30/26** **Module 4 Quiz – due 3/30/26** ***3/24/26 - Last Day to Withdraw from one or more courses***

11-12	Monday – Sunday 3/30 – 4/12	Summarizing the Evidence Evaluation of Outcomes	**Canvas Module 6** 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 - **due 4/13/26** Discussion Board: Patient Preferences & Clinical Expertise (Initial Response) **– due 4/8/26;** with peer response **4/13/26**(with RISE model) **Module 5 Quiz – due 4/13/26**
	Wednesday 4/8/26			Discussion board Initial Response – **due 4/8/26;** peer response - **due 4/13/26**
13-14	Monday – Sunday 4/13 – 4/24	Dissemination of the EBP Results: Sustaining EBP through Policy	**Canvas Module 7** 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 – **due 4/20/26** EBP Step 6: Dissemination Assignment – **due 4/22/26 (Wednesday)** ***Course Evaluation*** - we value **your feedback.**
	Saturday 4/25/26	*End of Course*		

Spring 2026 semester

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

https://www.uttyler.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.)