



**Caring for the Acutely Ill  
NURS 4626  
Spring 2026**

**Scheduled Class Days and Times:**

Tyler: Wednesday, 12:00-2:45 pm  
Longview: Wednesday, 9:00-11:45 am  
Palestine: Monday, 1:00-3:45 pm

**Tyler/Longview/Palestine Exams & Simulations will be held on Tuesdays, Time TBA**

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**Instructor's Name:** Kendra Askew, MSN, RN

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**Instructor's Name:** Courtney Penny, MSN, RN

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**Instructor's Name:** Kara Jones, DNP, RN, CNE

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**Course Description:** This course introduces nursing care required for individuals across the lifespan who have been diagnosed with acute physical or mental conditions. Emphasis is on using evidence-based practice for professional collaborative management of acute illness. A variety of clinical experiences will be used to apply caring, evidence-based, professional nursing care for persons experiencing acute illnesses. The focus will be on managing acute conditions, prevention of complications, patient safety and quality care.

**Prerequisites:** NURS 3615 & NURS 3617

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

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

- 1) Professionalism: Demonstrate and apply professional and ethical behavior including professional accountability and responsibility in the acute care setting.
- 2) Patient-Centered Care: Differentiate an individualized plan of care for patients who are acutely ill and for patients of special populations in the acute care setting while reflecting on social determinants of health, cultural competence, and cultural humility.
- 3) Evidenced-Based Practice (EBP): Synthesize and apply evidence-based practice to evaluate and improve patient outcomes.
- 4) Informatics & Technology: Apply the use of technology and information systems to support best practices in the delivery of comprehensive care to adult patients in the acute care setting and their families.
- 5) Quality Improvement: Critique the effectiveness of quality improvement using a systematic data-guided approach in the acute care setting.
- 6) Teamwork and Collaboration: Appraise the effectiveness of teamwork and mutual respect within the interdisciplinary team including different communication styles in the acute care setting.
- 7) Wellness and Prevention: Recognize the benefits of health and wellness-based initiatives as it relates to prevention of further complications and promotion of healthy outcomes for patients with acute care conditions with focus on social determinants to include social factors, health services, individual behaviors, and biology/genetics.
- 8) Leadership: Differentiate between leadership styles and how each impact professional practice in the acute care setting.
- 9) Safety: Appraise safety and quality measures implemented in the acute care environment.
- 10) Strengths: Analyze how Strengths (signature talent themes) influence the role of the student nurse and clinical decision-making.

### **Required Textbooks and Readings:**

Engage Adult Medical-Surgical RN (available through ATI—no additional purchase necessary)

### **Recommended Textbooks and Readings:**

RN Adult Medical Surgical Nursing Content Mastery Series Review Module Edition 11.0 (part of ATI workbook bundle received in Level 1—no additional purchase required)

**Special Course Notes:** ATI assignments required.

**Technical Resources:** Laptops/electronic devices may be required for testing with ATI. Notebooks and tablets are not compatible with ATI Products.

### **Artificial Intelligence in Course Work:**

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. Refer to the UT Tyler Website for more details at <https://www.uttyler.edu/digital-learning/ai/>

### Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

1. Exams (4 unit and 1 final exam @ 15% each)	75%
2. ATI Assessments and Remediation	10%
3. Weekly Quizzes	10%
4. Pre-Simulation Quizzes	3%
5. Interactive (Strengths) Assignment	2%
6. Medication Calculation Exam (Must score 100%)	P/F
7. Clinical Performance (Clinical canvas overall grade must be 75% or higher)	P/F

**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 - 75-79
- D - 60-74
- F - Below 60

Final course grades less than 75 are not rounded up.

The simple average of all exam grades, including a final, must first be at or above 75% in order to pass the course. Once the student has achieved a simple exam average of 75% or higher, course grades will be determined based on the weighted calculation of exams and other required course work.

**Exam Review:** Unit exam results will be distributed to students individually. Students have one week following each unit exam to request additional exam review with faculty. Students scoring  $\leq 75\%$  are highly encouraged to meet with their faculty on an individual basis to clarify concepts and discuss suggestions for improvement. Review of the final exam is not permitted.

**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

**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.

**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.

**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 <https://www.uttyler.edu/current-students/registrar/policies/repeating-courses-grade-replacement/>. 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:** See Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Value section above. More detailed information will be provided in Canvas and in class.

**Important Course Dates:**

<https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/academic-calendar-25-26/academic-calendar-school-of-nursing.php>

**Classes Begin:** Thursday, 1/8/26

**Census Date (withdraw without penalty):** Wednesday, 1/21/26

**Last Date to Withdraw:** Tuesday, 3/24/26 \*\*Please contact your advisor to discuss withdrawing from the course and notify your course instructor.

**Last day of class:** Friday, 4/24/26

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

Course Schedule			
Date	Activity	Lecture Topics & Readings	Assignments
Week 1	Skills Checkoffs Med Calc Exam	<b><i>Alterations in Health: Cardiovascular Function &amp; Perfusion</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coronary Artery Disease</li> <li>Pericarditis</li> <li>Pericardial Effusion</li> </ul> <b><i>Critical Care Nursing: Critical Alterations in Perfusion</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cardiac Tamponade</li> <li>Cardiac Surgeries (CABG only)—stop at MR</li> <li>Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm</li> </ul>	Week 1 Quiz Undergraduate Forms Clinical Agreement ATI Rubric
Week 2		<b><i>Alterations in Health: Cardiovascular Function &amp; Perfusion</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cardiac Rhythms</li> </ul> <b><i>Critical Care Nursing: Critical Alterations in Perfusion</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cardiac Rhythms</li> <li>Cardiopulmonary Arrest</li> </ul>	Week 2 Quiz Pre-Sim Quiz
Week 3	Simulation	<b><i>Alterations in Health: Disrupted Homeostasis</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fluid Volume Deficit</li> <li>Fluid Volume Excess</li> <li>Metabolic Acidosis</li> <li>Metabolic Alkalosis</li> <li>Respiratory Acidosis</li> <li>Respiratory Alkalosis</li> </ul>	Week 3 Quiz Post Simulation Assignment
Week 4	<b>Exam 1 (Weeks 1-3 Content)</b>		
		<b><i>Critical Care Nursing: Critical Alterations in Gas Exchange</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respiratory Failure</li> <li>ARDS</li> </ul>	ATI: Closed Drainage System Week 4 Quiz Pre-Sim Quiz
Week 5	Simulation	<b><i>Alterations in Health: Alterations in Gas Exchange</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pneumothorax</li> <li>Hemothorax</li> </ul>	Week 5 Quiz Post Simulation Assignment

		<b>Critical Care Nursing: Critical Alterations in Gas Exchange</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tension Pneumothorax</li> <li>• Flail Chest</li> <li>• Pulmonary Embolus</li> </ul>	
Week 6	<b>Exam 2 (Weeks 4-5 Content)</b>		
		<b>Alterations in Health: Alterations in Kidney Function &amp; Elimination</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pyelonephritis</li> <li>• Renal Calculi</li> <li>• Acute Kidney Failure</li> </ul>	ATI: 2023 Practice Assessment A Week 6 Quiz
Week 7		<b>Critical Care Nursing: Critical Alterations in Perfusion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SIRS</li> <li>• Shock</li> <li>• MODS</li> </ul>	Week 7 Quiz Pre-Sim Quiz
Week 8	Simulation	<b>Alterations in Health: Alterations in Tissue Integrity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burns</li> </ul> <b>Alterations in Health: Alterations in Hematologic Function</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blood Transfusions</li> </ul> <b>Critical Care Nursing: Critical Alterations in Perfusion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DIC</li> </ul>	Week 8 Quiz Post Simulation Assignment
Week 9	<b>Exam 3 (Weeks 6-8 Content)</b>		
		<b>Alterations in Health: Alterations in Spinal Cord Function</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spinal Cord Injury</li> </ul> <b>Alterations in Health: Alterations in Neurologic Function</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transient Ischemic Attack</li> <li>• Stroke</li> </ul> <b>Critical Care Nursing: Critical Neurologic Dysfunction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subarachnoid Hemorrhage</li> </ul> <b>Alterations in Health: Alterations in Cognition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delirium</li> </ul>	ATI: 2023 Practice Assessment B NIHSS Training Week 9 Quiz Pre-Sim Quiz
Week 10	Simulation	<b>Alterations in Health: Alterations in Neurologic Function</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cerebral Edema</li> </ul>	Week 10 Quiz Post Simulation Assignment



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Injury</li> </ul> <b>Critical Care Nursing: Critical Neurologic Dysfunction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased Intracranial Pressure</li> <li>• Traumatic Brain Injury</li> </ul>	
Week 11	<b>Exam 4 (Weeks 9-10 Content)</b>		
		<b>Alterations in Health: Alterations in Endocrine Function</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypothyroidism</li> <li>• Hyperthyroidism</li> </ul> <b>Critical Care Nursing: Critical Endocrine Dysfunction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DKA and HHS</li> <li>• Diabetes Insipidus</li> <li>• SIADH</li> <li>• Thyroid Storm</li> </ul>	Week 11 Quiz
Week 12	ATI Proctored	<b>Alterations in Health: Alterations in Digestion &amp; Bowel Elimination</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cholecystitis</li> <li>• Pancreatitis</li> <li>• Ulcers</li> <li>• Bowel Obstruction</li> </ul> <b>Alterations in Health: Caring for the Surgical Client</b> All Lessons (5	Week 12 Quiz ATI: Remediation
Week 13	ATI Retake	<b>Alterations in Health: Alterations in Mobility</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fractures</li> <li>• Amputations</li> </ul>	Week 13 Quiz
Week 14	<b>Comprehensive Final Exam</b>		

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 and University Policies and Information are provided in Canvas.