

**NURS 3333**  
**Evidence-Based Decision Making**  
**SYLLABUS**  
**Fall 2016**

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*The content of this syllabus/WEB site is subject to change at the discretion of the faculty leaders according to current learning needs.  
Approved by FO: 10/02*

## NURS 3333: Evidence-Based Decision Making

**Semester Credit hours:** Three (3) semester credit hours

**Course description:** This course introduces evidence-based practice as it relates to the science of nursing. Findings of selected research studies are appraised and presented. Ethical considerations and methods of protection of human subjects are integrated throughout the course.

**Course objectives/student learning outcomes:** Upon successful completion of the course, students will have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Integrate information from the arts and sciences to support evidence-based practice across the professional nursing career.
2. Discuss the role of evidence-based practice in organizational and systems leadership to support quality patient care.
3. Apply principles of evidence-based practice with diverse populations across the lifespan.
4. Use information technology to retrieve hierarchical levels of evidence that addresses clinical questions.
5. Make clinical decisions based on appraisal of the evidence, patient preferences and clinical expertise.
6. Apply principles of evidence-based practice with diverse populations across the lifespan.
7. Discuss the legal and ethical ramifications of research with human subjects.

### Required texts and materials

- Melnyk, B. & Fineout-Overholt, E. (2015). *Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing: A Guide to Best Practice, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer. ISBN-13: 978-1451190946
- American Journal of Nursing EBP Step-by Step Series:  
<http://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/pages/collectiondetails.aspx?TopicalCollectionId=10>. Download all 12 articles. See reading list for what week readings are due.
- Use Purdue Owl for information regarding APA (American Psychological Association) latest requirements for paper formatting, grammar and punctuation.  
(<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>)

### Course Information and Policies

#### General

1. All submitted written material (papers, assignments, examinations, etc.) are the property of the College of Nursing. They will be maintained in an archived file in the College of Nursing.
2. The *Guide for Baccalaureate Students* is available on the College of Nursing website at:  
<http://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/undergraduate/documents/guide-for-baccalaureate-students-fall11-spring12.pdf> Students must sign the statement indicating they have accessed the guide and submit the signed Student Guide Affirmation Form in Blackboard.
3. Communication:
  - a. Please Note: All nursing students are required to use their student “Patriot” email accounts for ALL individual correspondence. Any email from non-patriot domains may be ignored, deleted or filtered as spam. **Faculty are not allowed per U.T. policy to respond to personal e-mail accounts.** If you have difficulty with your patriot account you need to contact [itsupport@patriots.utt Tyler.edu](mailto:itsupport@patriots.utt Tyler.edu) or visit Campus Computing Services, BUS 101. This includes emails regarding absences, illnesses, missing exams, late assignments, and/or emergencies.

- b. In this course, there will be a Course Discussion Board, where ALL course related questions, communications and issues should be addressed. Individual issues can be emailed via Blackboard to instructor.

**Examinations/Assignments and Grading Policy:** Completion of NURS 3333 is based on satisfactory attainment of all course criteria. Any student failing to meet the course objectives and expectations must repeat the course and may not progress to the next level.

**Grading Policy:** Weighted calculation of all course evaluation requirements must be **75 or above** to pass the course. **Grades below 75 are not be rounded** when calculating the average (e.g., 74.5-74.9 is not rounded to 75). Here are the evaluation methods for demonstrating your learning in NURS3333 and their percent weight toward the total grade:

Evaluation Method (Assignment)	Percentage
Student Affirmation Form	P/F
Pre-test on EBP Knowledge	P/F
Educational Prescription	P/F
Learning Activities within Modules	20%
Assignments	30%
Quizzes	30%
Active Participation in Course	5%
Final Exam	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Letter grades will be assigned on the following scale:\*

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

### Unit Objectives

**Module 1:** How to make the BEST decisions with your patients to achieve their best outcomes. After completing this module the student will be able to:

- Discuss how BEST decisions are made - called evidence-based decision making. This begins with inquiry - or some may call it curiosity, innovative thinking or continuous quality improvement.
- Explain how to size up a clinical situation and create a question about the issues you see within that situation.
- Demonstrate how to search the existing literature in healthcare databases to find the best available answer for that question.

**Module 2:** How to recognize good research from not-so-good. Also, begin to gain knowledge and skills in evidence synthesis. After completing this module the student will be able to:

- Describes the steps of the EBP Process
- Discuss what kind of study matches what kind of clinical question

- Describe Levels of Evidence
- Explain aspects of research articles that tell you the basic bones of a research study
- Discuss components of a Randomized Controlled Trial
- Explain how to discern if a study is a Keeper Study
- Demonstrate how to evaluate selected studies within a body of evidence to determine what we know about a topic

**Module 3:** Continue learning about good research and not-so-good. Extend that knowledge to actual use of research evidence into practice to make evidence-based decisions. After completing this module the student will be able to:

- Make good decisions by blending patient preferences AND your expertise with the BEST of what we know from external research
- Recognize good qualitative research compared to not-so-good
- Discuss how human experience clinical questions are essential to how nurses practice their profession

**Module 4:** Take the next steps to begin flexing your wings and make recommendations for practice BASED ON the evidence you have evaluated and synthesized. This is the final step in critical appraisal. Make recommendations with confidence knowing what the external research says, what the patient wants and what the practice data says. After completing this module the student will be able to:

- Discuss how recommendations are made and how to evaluate their impact.
- Explain what models for EBP offer the clinical implementation of evidence.
- Describe how to collect and evaluate outcomes to determine if evidence implementation worked (or not).
- Discuss the importance and usefulness of reflection in practice.
- Describe the role of dissemination of information within professional nursing practice.

**This is a Hybrid/Online Course. Please access UTT information required for all hybrid and online courses at <http://lms-media.utt Tyler.edu/fileman/OID/Resource/skills.html>.** Be sure to read through the OVERVIEW, TECHNICAL SKILLS, NETIQUETTE, QUICK REFERENCE and UNIVERSITY POLICIES.

#### **Plug-ins and Helper Applications:**

UT Tyler online courses use Java, JavaScript, browser plug-ins, helper application and cookies. It is essential that you have these elements installed and enabled in your web browser for optimal viewing of the content and functions of your online course. Always ensure that you are using the most update version for the browser you choose to access the online learning content.

**NOTE:** Mozilla Firefox is the recommended browser for Blackboard (<http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>)

- Adobe Reader allows you to view, save, and print Portable Document Format (PDF) files (<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>)
- Java Runtime Environment (JRE) allows you to use interactive tools on the web (<http://www.java.com/en/download/>)
- Adobe Flash Player allows you to view content created with Flash such as interactive web applications and animations (<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>)
- QuickTime allows users to play back audio and video files (<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>)
- Windows Media Player allows you to view, listen and download streaming video and audio (<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/products/windows-media-player>)

#### **Technology Help**

For tutorials on how to use Blackboard, please click on the Help tab located on the upper right hand corner of this page. If you have issues with logins, connectivity, or with general computer support, please email [itsupport@patriots.utt Tyler.edu](mailto:itsupport@patriots.utt Tyler.edu) or contact the IT Support Hotline at (903) 565-5555.

### **More on Communication and Netiquette**

Communication within the course is expected to operate with principles of Civility and Professionalism, reflecting an authentic respect of all members of the course by taking your time, offering your presence and demonstrating a willingness to engage in genuine dialogue to seek common ground (Clark). The Course Discussion Board (CDB) is the main communication tool within this course; however, email is also a useful tool that can supplement. To communicate by email within the course with other participants or all participants, click the Communications link on the left side of the Blackboard frame. Click Send E-mail to send a message. You are able to send messages to All Users or Select Users in the course, including the instructor. If you need more instructions on how to send email messages with Blackboard please read the student manual located in the Resources area of the course.

Given that Interactions in an online classroom are in primarily written form, your comfort level with expressing ideas and feelings in writing will add to your success. The ability to have beginning writing skills is necessary – with engagement in the course, you will build these skills as a product of your investment in the course.

Here are some of the common rules of netiquette for the online learning that are expected in this course:

- Wait to respond to a message that upsets you and be careful of what you say and how you say it.
- Communicate with respect. Be considerate in ALL communication. UTT will not tolerate rude or threatening language, inflammatory assertions (often referred to as "flaming"), personal attacks, and other inappropriate communication.
- Avoid post messages all capital letters – it often comes across to the reader as SHOUTING! Use boldface and italics sparingly, as they can denote sarcasm.
- Keep messages short and to the point.
- Always practice good grammar, punctuation, and composition. This shows that you have taken the time to craft your response and that you respect your classmates' work.
- Keep in mind that Wikis and Blogs should be constructive, substantive exchanges.
- Be respectful and treat every person as you would want to be treated yourself.
- Use spell check!

### **Expectations of Students in NURS 3333**

#### **Students are expected to:**

1. Engage in the learning opportunities made available through the course. It also is a professional expectation that students submit their best work in a timely manner.
2. Read and prepare for discussion and group interaction to facilitate meeting course and unit objectives.
3. **Check the course** on Blackboard Website and your Patriot email account **daily** for announcements and/or assignment changes.

**Note:** *This course is on Blackboard. The course schedule and all weekly learning opportunities & assignments, instructions for graded work, and exams are available based on an incremental framework on Blackboard. It is essential that the student logs into the course Blackboard site to access required materials, complete required assignments and group activities and engage in learning.*

#### **A. Academic Integrity**

1. **Plagiarism is a serious academic offense.** Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work. Academic dishonesty, such as unauthorized collusion, plagiarism and cheating, as outlined in the [Handbook of Operating Procedures](#), University

of Texas at Tyler, will not be tolerated. University regulations require the instructor to report all suspected cases of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. In the event disciplinary measures are imposed on the student, it becomes part of the students' official school records. Also, please note that the handbook obligates you, the student, to report all observed cases of academic dishonesty to the instructor.

2. The College of Nursing **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**: Students are expected to assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted as homework, examinations, papers, etc. The **nursing program at U.T. Tyler seeks to create a climate that encourages its members to act as responsible adults in an academic community**. Generally, institutional disciplinary measures are invoked only in response to conduct that adversely affects the University's pursuit of its educational mission and objectives. Penalties may range from a warning to probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Behaviors that could subject a student to disciplinary action include all forms of academic dishonesty. ***Refer to the CON Guide for Baccalaureate Students*** for specific statements related to plagiarism, etc.

### **Last Day to Drop Any or All Classes**

**Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

Courses may be dropped online through *MyUTTyler* until 4 p.m. on the last day of online (early) registration. After that time, all drops and/or withdrawals must be completed through the Registrar's Office, either in person, by fax or by mail. Faxed or mailed drop/withdrawal requests must include the student's name, student ID number, course(s) to be dropped, date, student's signature, contact phone number and copy of a photo ID (driver's license, student ID, etc.). Requests should be mailed to UT Tyler Registrar's Office, 3900 University Blvd, Tyler, TX 75799 or faxed to (903)565-5705. Students are advised to meet with their instructor(s) and/or academic advisor prior to dropping any classes. Dropping or withdrawing from classes may affect financial aid eligibility, veteran's benefits, athletic eligibility, or international student status. Students should consult with those departments prior to dropping or withdrawing.

**Getting Started:** Please print out a copy of this syllabus and course calendar. Refer back to the information contained therein anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information.

Use this cite for reference as needed: <http://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf>

### **UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University:**

- All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.
- Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.
- There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free)