

Shawsheen Valley School of Nursing

Course Descriptions

101 Anatomy and Physiology (includes 16 hours of Medical Terminology)

This course includes basic knowledge of anatomy and physiology of the human body. Gross structure and functions of the human body are discussed. The student will begin to recognize variations from the normal, which may produce illness. Medical terminology relative to the system studied will also be included.

102 Fundamentals of Nursing

This course focuses on the purpose, role and responsibilities of the practical nurse. The student gains an understanding of the underlying principles of patient care and is able to perform nursing procedure and techniques essential to safe nursing care of patients. The student develops nursing care skills in observing and recording signs and symptoms and is able to react appropriately to changes in the patient's condition. The role of the nurse in promoting good nutrition is described. Legal and ethical concepts are explored as they apply to nurses. The concepts of verbal and nonverbal communication will be discussed and the various factors that can affect communication will be identified. The interrelated components of cultural influences on health care will also be stressed. Nursing responsibilities before, during and after a drug is administered will be emphasized. The course further explores the development of the nursing process with the utilization of critical thinking to solve problems and formulate plans to meet the diverse needs of the patient throughout the life span. The relationship between clinical experience and critical thinking is stressed.

103 Human Growth and Development

This course offers the student a basic knowledge of normal physical, psychological and social growth and development throughout the human life cycle. It increases self-understanding and helps the student to become aware of the deviations from the normal patterns of growth and development brought about by illness. The student becomes aware and accepting of culturally diverse groups, understanding the norms and conflicts that dictate their everyday life. At each stage of life, illness or injury modifies nursing care for the client. The student realizes that there are a variety of community setting and resources available to meet the needs of those clients and their families. Within this course, effective communication skills are utilized enhancing the nursing process for preliminary nursing care.

104 Nutrition

This course will provide the learner with an introduction to the concepts of diet and nutrition and its affect on the human body over the lifespan. It is designed to provide the student with nutritional information to promote health, prevent disease and manage clients' illness as it is related to diet and diet therapy. The processes of digestion, absorption and metabolism are discussed and the utilization of nutrients explored. A general overview of diet related illness and disease is discussed.

105 Microbiology

This course is an introduction to the science of microbiology, including the basic concept of classification of microorganisms and environments favorable for their growth and survival. Correlation of microbes to human disease, including infection, body defenses and immunity is discussed. This course describes methods of control and destruction of pathogens in clinical areas.

106 Pharmacology

The pharmacology curriculum is designed to incorporate knowledge of basic math with regards to dispensing pharmacological agents. The purpose of providing safe, knowledgeable care in the area of medication administration will be stressed as well as the utilization of the nursing process to provide continual assessment of the patient response. Communication and teaching to the patient will be

discussed. Pharmacological agents will be identified based on the system they affect in the human body. Common side effects, nursing considerations, mode of action and usual doses will be discussed.

107 Vocational Trends 1

Vocational Trends I will introduce the beginning nursing student to the role and responsibility of the practical nurse. Several nursing theories are explored with their relevance to current nursing practice emphasized. The history of nursing is explored as well as the changes in the United States health care system as they relate to the practical nurse. The ethical and legal perspectives of nursing as they relate to specific problems encountered in the role of a practical nurse are addressed. Communication techniques, safe nursing practice and medication knowledge as it relates to legal and the nurses safe medication administration will be stressed. Nursing organizations, career mobility and opportunities in the nursing field are investigated.

201 Maternity

This course focuses on the nature and scope of maternal and child health nursing. The component of the nursing process and their application to the care of maternal/child clients is emphasized. Nursing care skills given during the four stages of labor, antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum stages are described along with the care of the newborn. Communication techniques will be integrated. Students are encouraged to participate in patient education in lab, which encompass newborn safety issues, newborn care, and self-care of the postpartum client. The course also includes discussion and application for the most commonly used pharmacological agents administered during the course of an obstetrical and newborn's hospitalization. Dietary requirements of the pregnant and postpartum woman as well as feeding of the newborn are also included. Cultural and ethnic practices will be explored as they apply to the maternal and child clients. Legal and ethical aspects, which are common in the maternal/child population, are integrated into the program. Students are expected to apply critical thinking as they recognize normal and abnormal responses through completion of the simulated laboratory experience and standardized testing.

202 Mental Health Concepts

Social and emotional behavioral concepts are recognized as an essential part of the Nursing Process. The student becomes aware of the emotions and feelings of patients as they adjust to new situations, cope with personal problems and develop insight into their strengths and weakness. The student learns there is an emotional component inherent in all illnesses and all patients have emotional needs that must be met. Different personality theories and disorders are explored as well as the effect of substance abuse on the client and his family. The integrity of the individual as a biopsychosocial being is stressed

203 Pediatrics

This course focuses on the nature and scope of pediatric nursing, both in long term care and acute care settings. Nursing care skills specific to the infant through adolescence will be discussed and applied. The components of the nursing process and their application to the care of pediatric clients are emphasized. Communication techniques and the role of the pediatric nursing in health education of the pediatric clients and their family members will be explored. The physical and psychosocial development of children and age-specific events will be identified. Nutritional needs from infancy through adolescence will be discussed. Safety hazards particular to pediatric clients will be described. Cultural and ethnic practices will be identified as well as the effect they can have on nursing care of the pediatric clients. Legal and ethical issues that are common in pediatrics will be explained. The mode of action,

indications and nursing responsibilities for pharmacological agents as they apply to pediatric clients will be described. Discussion and application of the principles of critical thinking in their pediatric clinical experience will be emphasized as they recognize normal and abnormal responses.

204 Fundamentals of Nursing Clinical II

This clinical course expands the nursing student's role in applying skills in the Fundamental clinical setting. Medication administration utilizing simulation in the laboratory and clinical setting will be the primary focus. Students will utilize communication and assessment skills by caring for individuals with multiple co-morbidities and altered health status. The development of critical thinking through interactions, assessment and interventions will be emphasized.

301 Vocational Trends II

The Vocational Trends II course discusses professional development that enables the student to practice in the health care setting. This course discusses the MA Nurse Practice Act, leadership/management styles, and types of nursing models one may apply in the professional employment setting. Vocational Trends II prepares the individual to grow from a nursing student status to a practicing Licensed Practical Nurse. Students will learn to research job opportunities, write a cover letter and resume, apply for a job and apply to take NCLEX-PN. Students will explore opportunities in furthering their education as a RN.

302 Medical Surgical Nursing

This course in Medical-Surgical Nursing emphasizes the role of the student Practical Nurse when caring for adult clients with specific health related self-care deficits in an acute medical-surgical facility, transitional care unit or rehabilitation center. Emphasis is placed on incorporating critical thinking in utilizing the Nursing Process to set up nursing care plans and assist in discharge planning. The course is subdivided into alterations in functioning in all of the major biological systems encompassing the nutritional, psychosocial and cultural aspects. Pharmacological essentials are integrated into each system in the care of selected clients. The principles of health care teaching with selected clients and their families is integrated throughout the course. Ethical and legal considerations specific to care of the adult client and family are discussed. The importance of utilizing safety procedures in all aspects of nursing care is stressed.

303 Geriatric Nursing

This course focuses on the nursing care skills of the older adult. Emphasis is placed on providing culturally sensitive care, and respecting the privacy and dignity of the individual. Recognition of the psychological and social implications as they relate to alterations in function is also stressed. Application of communication techniques and the principles of teaching/learning is explored. Age-related changes in nutritional requirements are integrated. Nursing responsibilities for pharmacological agents are identified as they apply to the older adult. The nursing process is utilized in prioritizing interventions used in caring for the older adult; the role of the practical nurse in preventative and rehabilitation nursing in geriatrics is also stressed. The resources available to assist in the care of elderly in the community are explored; the uniqueness of the older adult, and their right to the finest and most sensitive nursing care is emphasized.