



**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

*Change, challenge and complexity characterize the context in which nursing is now practiced and will be practiced in the future. The predicted higher expectations will require the entry-level practitioner to practice more independently, and work safely with a wider range of clients, within a greater variety of practice settings and across the full continuum of care. (Harrington, 1997, CNO Communique)*

This nursing practice experience focuses on the actualization of the nurse as a professional. By critically reflecting on clinical experiences, learners will experience the significance of their role as generators and disseminators of nursing knowledge in shaping and responding to the challenges of health care in our society.

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF PERFORMANCE:****ENDS-IN-VIEW:**

1. Value and internalize educational experiences and program philosophy in a dynamic health care and societal environment.
2. Demonstrate a commitment to ongoing professional development through collaboration (colleagues, faculty and preceptors).
3. Visualize and actualize self as a professional nurse.
4. Demonstrate advanced critical thinking and reflection with respect to nursing care and roles in complex, reality-based situations.
5. Recognize the relationships between participants in a multi-disciplinary team.
6. Engage in collaborative practice.
7. Integrate diverse knowledge bases to direct complex nursing care.

**PROCESS:**

The learning context will include seminar and nursing practice settings and will involve collaboration with faculty, colleagues and clinical partners (Preceptors). It is the intention of the faculty to foster participants' problem solving approaches as they strive to assist clients to achieve desired health outcomes. Case studies will form the basis for seminar discussion. While applying a problem solving approach, participants will demonstrate various skills required for critical thinking, clinical reasoning, effective and productive interpersonal communication, resource identification and technical competency. Faculty role is that of a facilitator so that students may explore the complexities and types of problems that may arise in clinical practice.

**III. CONCEPTS:**

The following concepts are foundational in this course:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Praxis  | 7. Practice Context and Culture |
| 2. Change  | 8. Caring                       |
| 3. Leadership                                    | 9. Health Promotion             |
| 4. Professionalism/Competence<br>/Accountability | 10. Knowledge                   |
| 5. Collaboration                                 | 11. Evidence based nursing      |
| 6. Self as Nurse                                 | 12. Best practice               |

**IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:****Required Text:**

Lewis, S. L. (2007) *Virtual clinical excursions for medical-surgical nursing* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). St. Louis: Elsevier/Mosby.

**Recommended:**

Canadian Nurses Association. (2005). *The Canadian Registered Nurse exam prep guide* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Ottawa, ON: Author.

DiCenso, A., Guyatt, G., & Ciliska, D. (2005). *Evidence-based nursing: A guide to clinical practice*. Philadelphia: Mosby.

Marshall-Henty, J. & Bradshaw, J. (Eds.). (2006). *Your guide to short answer questions on the CRNE*. Toronto, ON: Elsevier Canada.

McIntyre, J., Thomlinson, E., & McDonald C. (2006). *Realities of Canadian nursing: Professional, practice, and power issues* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkin.

Saxton, D., Nugent, P., & Pelikan, P. (2003). *Mosby's Canadian comprehensive review of nursing* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Toronto, ON: Elsevier Science Canada.

*The following will be helpful*

- Textbooks from previous courses, such as: Medical Surgical Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Maternal-Child Nursing, Community Nursing, Pharmacology, and Physical Examination & Health Assessment.
- Mosby's Comprehensive Review of Nursing.
- The CNA Review
- Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses
- Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses
- CNO Documents and RNAO Best Practice Guidelines
- Standards for the Therapeutic Nurse-Client Relationship
- Online data bases, such as: Proquest, Ovid, CINAHL, Medline, Cochrane Library, Ebscohost.

Be advised that additional resources are available in the library, acute care facilities and in the community setting. These should be explored fully.

**V. CLINICAL EXPERIENCE: *Please read this carefully***

Students will be partnered with a Registered Nurse in the in-patient or community practice setting. Students will also be assigned a Faculty Advisor.

It is the role of the Preceptor to mentor the student in the clinical setting. It is the role of the advisor to facilitate communication between the student and preceptor, ensure that the student has realistic and measurable objectives, monitor clinical hours and to participate in the development of the learning contract and evaluation of the student.

It is expected that the student will make contact with their clinical partner (Preceptor) during the third week of September. Students should draft a learning contract that reflects both personal and course (from all first term, year 4 nursing courses) related learning objectives, and the means that the student will employ to attain these objectives as well as the evaluation criteria. A formal clinical evaluation tool will be provided to the student so that program objectives are also met. Students must contact and see their Faculty advisor prior to beginning their clinical time. REGARDLESS OF THE SETTING, STUDENTS MUST SPEAK WITH THEIR FACULTY ADVISOR AND DISCUSS THEIR LEARNING OBJECTIVES PRIOR TO BEGINNING THEIR CLINICAL TIME FOR NURS 4084. Breach of this course policy will result in immediate removal from the clinical setting for unprofessional behavior.

Students are expected to follow their preceptor's schedule as much as possible. Wednesday, through Sunday are possible clinical days (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday). Mondays and Tuesdays have been set aside as class time in the Fall Semester of Year 4.

Students are to plan their schedules accordingly. WITHIN ONE WEEK OF BEGINNING THE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE, THE STUDENT MUST SUBMIT, TO BOTH THE FACULTY ADVISOR AND CLINICAL PRECEPTOR, A SCHEDULE SPECIFYING HOURS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO ENSURE THAT CHANGES TO THIS SCHEDULE ARE REPORTED AND RECORDED. FAILURE TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION OF CLINICAL HOURS WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM THE CLINICAL SETTING. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. All students are expected to complete 200 hours in the clinical setting.

Students must refrain from using client names, preceptor or other staff names and agency names in their written communications such as journals and assignments. Students are to follow the dress code for clinical practice as outlined in the Student Manual. In the clinical practice setting, students are responsible to the client, preceptor, agency AND to the School of Nursing. Unsafe practice, unprofessional behavior, or infractions with respect to accountability and responsibility are grounds for removal from the clinical setting.

## **VI. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:**

A passing grade of 60% is required for NURS 4084 and the student must also achieve a satisfactory level of competence in the practicum portion.

In order to facilitate the integration of previous learning, students will participate in weekly seminars where various topics will be examined. Students will be expected to participate in seminars by identifying areas where additional learning is needed. Group presentations will examine these areas and meet student learning objectives. Students will submit a clinical portfolio the contents of which are detailed below. A final examination will be written during the examination period.

### **CLINICAL PRACTICE**

### **Pass/Fail**

Clinical evaluation is pass/fail. A midterm and final evaluation must include the learner, faculty advisor from the nursing school and the clinical preceptor. Failure to attain a rank of two (2) on any one of the areas in the evaluation constitutes a failure in NURS 4084. Except in extenuating circumstances, all students must complete 200 hours in the clinical setting prior to the beginning of the examination period in December. Failure to complete clinical hours within the specified time period may result in a failure in NURS 4084.

**GROUP PRESENTATION****20%**

Students will participate in a group presentation that examines areas of interest determined by the entire class. Group presentations will be done in power point and posted on Blackboard. Each group must reply to postings made by each of the other groups. The presentations must demonstrate an evidence-based practice orientation. It must include a well framed question, evidence of an appropriate search for the answer and a listing of sources of evidence used to develop the answer. Replies to the group presentations should also reflect an evidence-based practice orientation. For example, replies may incorporate insight gained from practice experience or may comment on changes that will be made in future practice. The replies may also pose critical questions for consideration by the entire class.

**Two Major Submissions****40%**

Each student will be responsible for preparing two (2) reality-based submissions. The purpose of this assignment is to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to actualize critical thinking and priority setting in evidenced based client care. The structure for the assignment is outlined in the Course Syllabus and is different for students depending upon their clinical setting. These submissions are due no later than Week 9 of classes, Friday at 1200 (date to be discussed). The North Eastern Ontario Collaborative Nursing Program policies for assignments and late assignments apply (see Student Manual). You must follow APA format. Page Limit (for the two Major Submissions combined) = 15 pages exclusive of title page and references.

**VI. PORTFOLIO**

Learning contract and submissions to support achievement of learning objectives  
Students are to develop a learning contract that reflects both personal and course (from all first term, year 4 nursing courses) related learning objectives. Learning objectives need to be specific and measurable. The student needs to describe the means that he/she will employ to attain these objectives and the evaluation criteria to be used. A formal clinical evaluation tool will be provided to the student so that program objectives are also met. **REGARDLESS OF THE SETTING, STUDENTS MUST SPEAK WITH THEIR FACULTY ADVISOR AND DISCUSS THEIR LEARNING OBJECTIVES PRIOR TO BEGINNING THEIR CLINICAL TIME FOR NURS 4084.**

Submissions are required as evidence of meeting each learning objective. These submissions may take the form of Year 4 Course assignments; clinical evaluations, reflections; self, peer, or preceptor critiques; research article reviews; case study analysis; conundrum analysis; or other creative evidence of learning. The student needs to demonstrate praxis by explaining how this learning has changed or will change his/her practice.

Journals

All students will submit a journal entry to their clinical preceptor and faculty advisor after every 30-40 hours of clinical experience (5 in total). These journals must address progress toward the accomplishment of learning objectives identified on personal learning plans. Entries must be evidence based – that is supported with references from the literature. The final journal should be a summary of how learning outcomes were achieved overall with examples. These journals are considered a part of your portfolio.

**FINAL EXAMINATION****40%**

This will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and case study analysis. The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar.

The following semester grades will be assigned to students in postsecondary courses:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 - 100%	4.00
A	80 - 89%	4.00
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
D	50 – 59%	1.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

**VII. NOTE:**

For such reasons as program certification or program articulation, certain courses require minimums of greater than 50% and/or have mandatory components to achieve a passing grade.

It is also important to note, that the minimum overall GPA required in order to graduate from a Sault College program remains 2.0.

All NURS courses require 60% for a passing grade.

All science courses, including BIOL2105, BIOL2111, CHMI2220 and elective courses require 50% for a passing grade.

**VIII SPECIAL NOTES:**Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your instructor and/or the Special Needs office. Visit Room E1101 or call Extension 2703 so that support services can be arranged for you.

Retention of course outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Communication:

The College considers **WebCT/LMS** as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of the **Learning Management System** communication tool.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in the *Student Code of Conduct*. Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Course outline amendments:

The Professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.



Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

**IX. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:**

Students who wish to apply for advanced credit in the course should consult the professor. Credit for prior learning will be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

**X. DIRECT CREDIT TRANSFERS:**

Students who wish to apply for direct credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain a direct credit transfer form from the Dean's secretary. Students will be required to provide a transcript and course outline related to the course in question.