



COURSE OUTLINE: BSCN2101 - ETHICS

Prepared: Barb Engel

Approved: Rebecca Keown - Dean

Course Code: Title	BSCN2101: ETHICS	
Program Number: Name	3401: HONOURS BSCN	
Department:	BSCN - NURSING	
Academic Year:	2025-2026	
Course Description:	This course focuses on multifaceted issues inherent in the delivery of nursing care from a Canadian perspective. Opportunities are provided for learners to examine moral, professional, ethical, and legal nursing knowledge in relation to current practice. Learners are required to integrate new and prior learning.	
Total Credits:	3	
Hours/Week:	3	
Total Hours:	36	
Prerequisites:	BSCN1002, BSCN2000, BSCN2010	
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.	
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	3401 - HONOURS BSCN	
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	VLO 1 Meet professional practice requirements as identified in the current Entry-to-Practice Competencies and Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario.	
	VLO 2 Provide safe, competent, holistic care to diverse individuals, groups and populations in a variety of contexts based on the principles of nursing knowledge, ways of knowing, ethics, relationships, and cultural safety.	
	VLO 3 Build professional relationships in a collaborative environment with other health care providers and actively engage in collaborative decision making around client care.	
	VLO 4 Contribute to the nursing profession and healthcare through the practice of critical inquiry, self-reflection, and a commitment to professional growth through lifelong learning.	
	VLO 5 Utilize critical thinking and reasoning to make evidence-informed clinical judgements.	
	VLO 6 Practice nursing while demonstrating advocacy and leadership at the professional, political, and societal levels, in accordance with the values of social justice and equity.	
	VLO 7 Utilize available technologies to communicate, educate, and provide appropriate care in a variety of contexts.	
	VLO 10 Practice with an understanding of the history, ways of knowing, and culture of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.	
	VLO 11 Identify, support, and effect appropriate change in healthcare.	
	Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.



- EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.
- EES 3 Execute mathematical operations accurately.
- EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.
- EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.
- EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.
- EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.
- EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.
- EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.
- EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.
- EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.

Course Evaluation:

Passing Grade: 65%,

A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.

Other Course Evaluation & Assessment Requirements:

Learners must earn a satisfactory assessment on their e-portfolio.

ETP: 1.1, 1.15, 2.1, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 3.1, 5.4, 5.5, 7.2, 7.5, 7.7, 7.8, 7.10, 7.12, 7.13, 9.4
 ILO: 1,2,5

Books and Required Resources:

Ethical & Legal Issues in Canadian Nursing by Keatings, M. & Adams, P.
 Publisher: Elsevier Edition: 5th
 ISBN: 9780323827461
 or 9780323873031 EText

Ends in View and Processes:

Ends in View	Process
1. Critically analyze selected ethical questions	1.1 Analyze key ethical and legal issues that arise in the practice of nursing. 1.2 Apply ethical theories, frameworks, and principles to nursing practice. 1.3 Examine how the application of case scenarios can deepen the understanding of ethical theory, principles, and concepts. 1.4 Discuss the legal and ethical implications of withdrawal of treatment. 1.5 Discuss the importance of integrating knowledge and respect from a cultural lens in providing care to clients. 1.6 Discover the legal framework for Medical Assistance in Dying and apply it in varying clinical contexts. 1.7 Discuss legal and ethical challenges related to organ and tissue donation and organ transplantation.
Ends in View	Process
2. Critically analyze nursing	2.1 Discuss the evolution of present day ethical thinking in



	within a professional context, reflecting on its autonomy.	nursing. 2.2 Explain the role and function of self-regulating bodies and how they ensure the protection of the public. 2.3 Examine the professional responsibilities and accountabilities of the nurse. 2.4 Explore the laws, procedures, and structures regulating the nursing profession across Canada.
	Ends in View	Process
	3. Develop a deeper understanding of the meaning of being a professional nurse in practice.	3.1 Develop understanding of the knowledge nurses require to practice according to ethical and legal standards. 3.2 Examine the influence of values on ethical decision making. 3.3 Explain the role the Code of Ethics (Canadian Nurses Association, 2017) in today's nursing practice. 3.4 Discuss the concept of competence and capacity from the lens of patient and healthcare provider. 3.5 Develop insight on the nurse's role in advocacy. 3.6 Discover when the right to a conscientious objection can be invoked in nursing practice. 3.7 Examine the importance and elements of a healthy work environment for nurses.
	Ends in View	Process
	4. Develop a clear understanding of the College of Nurses Standards of Practice.	4.1 Develop knowledge of the role of professional nurses in serving the public interest. 4.2 Explain the role of regulatory or governing bodies in managing entry to practice, and the ongoing competencies and professional behaviour of nurses. 4.3 Assess the processes and procedures used by regulatory bodies to ensure quality, to respond to complaints, and to enforce the ethical, clinical, and professional standards and behaviour of nurses. 4.4 Analyze the Code of Conduct for nurses in Ontario and apply the concepts to nursing practice.
	Ends in View	Process
	5. Critically analyze current issues and trends in nursing.	5.1 Explain how the law evolves as societal values shift over time. 5.2 Assess the ethical and legal issues related to advancing science and technology including advances in reproductive science/technology, genetics, and genomics. 5.3 Debate a contemporary issue in healthcare. 5.4 Discuss the evolving organizational and leadership challenges in the health care sector. 5.5 Examine the use of social media in the context of professional nursing.
	Ends in View	Process
	6. Discuss future directions in nursing.	6.1 Explore the Canadian healthcare system and the role of nurses in the future. 6.2 Discuss the contribution of nursing within an interprofessional practice model and the advantages of the

	interprofessional approach. 6.3 Discuss the value of nurturing just culture in healthcare. 6.4 Discuss ethical considerations of greater integration of technology to support the profession.
Ends in View	Process
7. Develop an understanding of the legal aspects of health care and nursing.	7.1 Develop knowledge of professional standards and the ethical and legal principles that guide nursing practice. 7.2 Discuss the two primary legal systems in Canada- French civil law and English common law and examine how these are applied in practice. 7.3 Discover the role of government in establishing law and discuss the legislative process. 7.4 Distinguish between tort law and criminal law. 7.5 Explore the concept of valid and informed consent. 7.6 Apply knowledge of substitute decision making, advanced directives, and person-centered care. 7.7 Develop insight on healthcare professionals responsibilities in emergency situations. 7.8 Examine the legal concepts of negligence, duty of care, vicarious liability, standard of care, causation, and their application to nursing practice. 7.11 Determine the legal requirement for proper nursing documentation, its significance, and how it is used in legal proceedings. 7.12 Discuss the person's right to confidentiality and the conditions under which disclosure is permitted.

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Debate Paper	15%
Debate Presentation	10%
Final Exam	35%
Midterm Test	30%
Participation	10%

Date:

December 12, 2025

Addendum:

Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.

