

**MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS
NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Course Outline NUR 215
Summer 2007**

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NUR 215 Nursing Elective 2 credits

Textbook: None

Catalog Description: Supervised clinical experience in conjunction with the externship of an approved local healthcare facility. Designed to strengthen and broaden the competencies of second-year nursing students and to enhance their knowledge of the role of the RN. Participants must be accepted into the facility's externship program. Includes periodic on-campus seminars.

Classes Scheduled: As per arrangement with participating facility.

Course Requirements:

All students must meet the medical requirements for the nursing program prior to start of class.

Each student will be required to fill out a skill assessment form to identify his or her own perceived strengths and weaknesses. This will be done during the first class meeting period. Upon completion of the course, the student will fill out another skill assessment form. The student and instructor will compare the two assessments at the last class period.

Each student will be required to maintain a journal of his/her daily experiences during the course. The journal should not merely include tasks performed, but also include reflections on his/her thoughts during the day. Appropriate content would include (but is not limited to) the following: the decision making process, prioritizing, what might be done differently and why, feelings about the clinical experience, etc. The student should also be examining the role of the registered nurse and record their related thoughts and impressions/perceptions. The clinical instructor will meet with the class once a week to discuss journal content and issues associated with the clinical experience.

Weekly meetings will take place between preceptor and student. Each student will work with his/her preceptor to set goals for each week. The student will work with the preceptor to seek opportunities for achieving these goals. The goals should be included as part of the journal content. In the event that the student or preceptor feel that remediation of skills is necessary, the clinical instructor will work with the student toward improvement. The clinical instructor, preceptor and students will meet periodically to discuss student progress.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and perform appropriate nursing task for his/her clients while under the supervision of the preceptor.
2. Identify tasks that could be delegated to other healthcare team members.
3. Describe the role of the staff RN within the selected health care setting.
4. Demonstrate appropriate communication skills.
5. Develop critical and independent thinking skills through the use of reflective writing in a daily journal.

Course Grade: Each student will be evaluated by his/her clinical site preceptor. A grade of “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory” will be issued based on the student’s performance. The student is required to submit his/her journal each week for grading. The student will receive an outline of grading criteria for the journal at the start of the class.

Journal Assignment: All students are required to keep a clinical journal. These should include at least two entries per week. Each journal entry should describe a clinical incident which the student found significant. The clinical incidents should describe client care episodes which stimulated the student’s thinking.

For each journal entry you are to discuss ***five*** of the following points:

1. Describe what nursing interventions done by the student or others.
2. Describe the student’s decision-making process.
3. Describe what the student would do differently when a similar incident occurs.
4. Describe the clinical incident as to its relationship to the parts and the whole.
5. Identify previously learned knowledge/clinical experiences (those that helped in this situation).
6. Use Benner’s competency statements and describe where the student views him/herself.
7. Describe the student’s strengths and weaknesses. Include thoughts, perceptions and feelings.
8. Describe resources the student identified and/or utilized and the rationale for their use.

Benner’s Competency Statements:*

Novice: No experience of the situation prior to this point in time; behavior is governed by what the textbook says.

Advanced Beginner: Prior experience with the situation; able to formulate principles that dictate actions.

Competent: Able to see her actions in terms on long-range goals or plans; has developed a sense of mastery and the ability to cope with and manage the many contingencies of clinical nursing.

Proficient: Understand the situation as a whole, think in terms of long-term goals; has learned from experience what typical events to expect in a given situation and how plans need to be modified in response to these events.

Expert: Has an intuitive grasp of each situation and zeroes in on the accurate region of the problem without wasteful consideration of a large range of unfruitful, alternative diagnoses and solutions.

*From Patricia Benner’s Book, “*From Novice to Expert*,” Addison–Wesley Publishing Company–Nursing Division. Menlo Park, CA 1984