

Course Code: NUR 236

Course Title: Maternal-Newborn Nursing

Department: Nursing

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.2 - Occupational/Technical Instruction

CIP Code: 51.3801

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 2-3-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 2

Lab: 0

Clinical: 3

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Family-centered nursing care of newborns, childbearing families, and women throughout the lifespan.

General Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to utilize basic knowledge acquired from related disciplines in understanding the maternity client and the neonate's needs within the wellness-illness continuum. The student will be able to utilize the nursing process in caring for patients/clients with alterations in functional health patterns, to teach maternity patients/clients, and administer family-centered nursing care for infants in a variety of settings.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Credit in ENG 101 with a grade of C or higher	Placement out of CCS 099	None

Prerequisites

Credit in NUR 113, NUR 114, NUR 117, NUR 118, NUR 151, BIO 121, BIO 122, and PSY 101

Credit or concurrent enrollment in NUR 238, BIO 123, and PSY 209

Admission into the Nursing program

Methods of Evaluation

5-8 content quizzes, 1 Kaplan Maternal-Newborn Nursing NGN integrated exam, 1 comprehensive final examination (80 questions). 16 participation assignments from the FA Davis personalized learning assessments. Completion of weekly clinical evaluation tools, and clinical competency as defined by the program's Core Components and Competencies. Weekly obstetric nursing care plans. (students choose a culture other than their own and examine obstetric and newborn cultural practices within chosen culture and ways to integrate those practices into our health practices within the United States).

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Foundations of Maternal-Newborn and Women's Health Nursing, Most recent edition. 9781719640985

Kaplan (fees).

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Reasoning and Inquiry: Students will demonstrate the ability to solve problems using deductive reasoning and logic, quantitative reasoning, or the scientific method.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction to Maternal-Newborn Nursing, Current Issues in Maternal-newborn Nursing, and Care of the Family in a Culturally Diverse Society	1. Relate the concept of the expert nurse to nurses caring for childbearing families. 2. Compare the nursing roles available to the maternal-newborn nurse. 3. Delineate significant legal and ethical issues that influence the practice of nursing for childbearing families. 4. Delineate the benefits of evidence-based nursing practice to the client, the institution, and the profession of nursing. 5. Identify factors that influence the values, decision making, and roles within the family unit. 6. Distinguish among different types of families. 7. Discuss the impact of culture in caring for the childbearing family. 8. Summarize the importance of cultural competency in providing nursing.	2	0	3
Nursing Assessment of the Postpartum Patient and Nursing Assessment of the Newborn Assessment	1. Describe the normal sensory/perceptual abilities and behavioral states present in the newborn period. 2. Describe the normal physical and behavioral characteristics of the newborn. 3. Summarize the components of a complete newborn assessment and the significance of normal variations and abnormal findings. 4. Discuss the neurologic and neuromuscular characteristics of the newborn and the reflexes that may be present at birth. 5. Delineate the physiologic and psychosocial components of a normal postpartum assessment. 6. Summarize the factors that influence the development of parent-infant attachment. 7. Discuss appropriate nursing interventions to promote maternal comfort and well-being. 8. Describe assessment, care of the newborn, and reinforcement of parent-teaching in the home.	2	0	3

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Hereditary and Environmental Influences on Childbearing, Conception, and Prenatal Development	1. Describe the differentiation of the male and female reproductive organs during embryonic development. 2. Identify the actions of the hormones that affect reproductive functioning. 3. Identify variations that may occur in the umbilical cord and insertion into the placenta. 4. Identify maternal and fetal risks associated with multiple gestations. 5. Identify the differing processes by which fraternal and identical twins are formed. 6. Describe the process of fertilization. 7. Describe the development, structure, and functions of the placenta during intrauterine life. 8. Identify the vulnerable periods in which malformations of the various organ systems may occur, and describe the resulting congenital malformations. 9. Discuss the indications for preconceptional genetic counseling and prenatal testing. 10. Compare prenatal and postnatal diagnostic procedures used to determine the presence of genetic disorders.	2	0	3
Maternal Adaptations to Pregnancy and Nutrition for Childbearing	1. Describe the significance of using the nursing process to promote health in the woman and her family during pregnancy. 2. Discuss the significance of cultural considerations in managing nursing care during pregnancy. 3. Explain the causes of common discomforts of pregnancy. 4. Delineate self-care actions a pregnant woman and her family can take to maintain and promote well-being during each trimester of pregnancy. 5. Compare similarities and differences in the needs of expectant women in various age groups. 6. Identify the role of specific nutrients in the diet of the pregnant woman. 7. Compare nutritional needs during pregnancy, postpartum, and lactation with nonpregnant requirements. 8. Discuss effects of maternal nutrition on fetal outcomes. 9. Describe ways in which various physical, psychosocial, and cultural factors can affect nutritional intake and status. 10. Identify the anatomic and physiologic changes that occur in the body systems during pregnancy. 11. Contrast the various types of pregnancy tests. 12. Discuss the emotional and psychological changes that commonly occur in a woman, her partner, and her family during pregnancy.	2	0	3
Antepartum Assessment, Care, and Education and Assessing the Fetus	1. Identify the various issues related to preconception counseling, pregnancy, labor, and birth that require decision-making by parents. 2. Discuss the basic goals of childbirth education. 3. Delineate the childbirth educator's role in promoting relaxation for pregnant women. 4. Compare methods of childbirth preparation. 5. Summarize the essential components of a prenatal history. 6. Describe the normal physiologic changes one would expect to find when performing a physical assessment on a pregnant woman. 7. Explain the use of Nagele's rule to determine the estimated date of birth. 8. Relate the danger signs of pregnancy to their possible causes. 9. Describe the various psychologic responses to antenatal testing. 10. Identify indications and interpret findings for ultrasound examinations performed in the first trimester.	2	0	3

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Antepartum Assessment, Care, and Education and Assessing the Fetus (cont'd)	- Describe procedures used in the first trimester to confirm fetal viability. - Delineate the use of ultrasound in the second trimester to assess fetal life, number, presentation, anatomy, age, and growth. - Compare the indications and procedures for fetal movement awareness, the nonstress test, vibroacoustic stimulation, the contraction stress test, biophysical profile, and amniotic fluid index. - Explain the purpose of maternal serum alpha-fetoprotein testing and the implications of abnormal values. - Contrast the use of amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling in detecting a fetus with a chromosomal disorder. - Discuss fetal fibronectin and transvaginal measurement of cervical length as predictors of preterm labor. - Discuss how the lecithin/sphingomyelin ratio of the amniotic fluid and phosphatidylglycerol (PG) can be used to assess fetal lung maturity.			
Processes of Birth and Intrapartum Fetal Surveillance	- Describe the physiology of labor. - Discuss premonitory signs of labor. - Differentiate between false and true labor. - Describe the characteristics of the four stages of labor and their accompanying phases. - Summarize maternal systemic responses to labor. - Describe fetal adaptations to labor. - Summarize intrapartum physical, psychosocial, and cultural assessment necessary for optimum maternal-fetal outcome. - Compare the various methods of monitoring fetal heart rate and contractions, giving advantages and disadvantages of each. - Describe the procedure for performing Leopold's maneuvers and the information that can be obtained. - Identify the interventions that are indicated when a non-reassuring fetal heart rate pattern is identified. - Identify fetal heart rates and patterns using National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) terminology.	2	0	3
Nursing Care During Labor and Birth	- Identify nursing diagnoses specific to the first, second, third, and fourth stages of labor. - Compare methods for inducing labor, explaining their advantages and disadvantages. - Summarize various types of fetal malposition and malpresentation and possible associated problems. - Delineate management of a nurse-managed precipitous birth. - Contrast the methods of external cephalic version and internal version and the related nursing management. - Summarize immediate nursing care of the newborn following birth. - Describe nursing interventions for promoting the woman's comfort during each stage of labor. - Discuss the components of a social history and its role in caring for the laboring woman. - Explain the indications for Cesarean birth, impact on the family unit, preparation and teaching needs, and associated nursing management.	2	0	3

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High Risk Prenatal Patient and Complications of Pregnancy	1. Summarize the effects of alcohol and illicit drugs on the childbearing woman and her fetus/newborn. 2. Discuss the nursing care for a woman experiencing premature rupture of the membranes or preterm labor. 3. Discuss the implications of trauma due to accidents or battering of the pregnant woman and her fetus. 4. Explain the cause and prevention of hemolytic disease of the newborn secondary to Rh incompatibility. 5. Identify the medical therapy and nursing interventions indicated in caring for a woman with an incompetent cervix. 6. Contrast the etiology, medical therapy, and nursing interventions for the various bleeding problems associated with pregnancy. 7. Compare the effects of selected gestational medical conditions on pregnancy. 8. Describe the effects of various heart disorders on pregnancy, including their implications for nursing care. 9. Discuss the pathology, treatment, and nursing care of pregnant women with diabetes.	2	0	3
Pain Management During Childbirth and Intrapartum Complications	1. Identify contraindications to specific types of analgesia and anesthesia for high-risk mothers. 2. Discuss dysfunctional labor patterns. 3. Discuss the use of vacuum extraction, including indications, procedure, complications, and related nursing management. 4. Describe the types of episiotomies performed, the rationale for each, and the associated nursing interventions. 5. Discuss the use of amniotomy in current maternal-newborn care. 6. Compare abruptio placentae and placenta previa. 7. Summarize possible complications of regional anesthesia. 8. Compare the major types of regional analgesia and anesthesia, including area affected, advantages, disadvantages, techniques, and nursing implications. 9. Describe the use of systemic analgesics to promote pain relief during labor.	2	0	3
Postpartum Adaptations and Nursing Care, Postpartum Complications	1. Describe the basic physiologic changes that occur in the postpartum period as a woman's body returns to its prepregnant state. 2. Discuss the psychologic adjustments that normally occur during the postpartum period; identify client-teaching topics for promoting postpartal family wellness. 3. Compare the nursing needs of a woman who experienced a Cesarean birth with the needs of a woman who gave birth vaginally. 4. Describe assessment of the woman for predisposing factors, onset signs, and symptoms of various postpartum complications to facilitate early and effective management of complications. 5. List the causes of and appropriate nursing interventions for hemorrhage during the postpartal period. 6. Identify ways to provide continuity of nursing care for women with postpartum complications in the community setting. 7. Identify postpartum resources that are available to new families. 8. Determine the nurse's responsibilities related to early postpartum discharge.	2	0	3

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Newborn Adaptation and Care, Infant Feeding	1. Summarize the essential areas of information to be obtained about a newborn's birth experience and immediate postnatal period. 2. Relate the physiologic and behavioral responses of newborns to possible interventions needed. 3. Discuss the major nursing considerations and activities to be carried out during the first four hours after birth and daily care of the newborn. 4. Describe topics and related content to be included in parent-teaching on newborn and infant care. 5. Delineate the information to be included in discharge planning with the newborn's family. 6. Compare the nutritional value and composition of breast milk and formula preparations. 7. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of breastfeeding and formula-feeding for both the mother and newborn. 8. Incorporate knowledge of newborn nutrition and normal growth patterns into parent education and infant assessment. 9. Recognize the influence of cultural values on infant care and feeding practices. 10. Summarize the respiratory and cardiovascular changes that occur during the transition to extrauterine life and during stabilization. 11. Identify the reasons the newborn's kidneys have difficulty maintaining fluid and electrolyte balance. 12. Explain the steps involved in the conjugation and excretion of bilirubin in the newborn. 13. Correlate the major mechanisms of heat loss in the newborn to the process of thermogenesis in the newborn. 14. Describe how various factors affect the newborn's blood values.	2	0	3
Care of the High Risk Newborn	1. Identify factors present at birth that help identify an at-risk newborn. 2. Compare the underlying etiologies of the physiologic complications of small-for-gestational-age (SGA) newborns and preterm appropriate-for-gestational-age newborns. 3. Describe the impact of maternal diabetes mellitus on the newborn. 4. Compare the characteristics and underlying etiologies of potential complications of the post-term newborn and newborn postmaturity syndrome. 5. Summarize the nursing assessments of and initial interventions for a newborn born with selected congenital anomalies. 6. Explain the special care needed by a drug-exposed newborn. 7. Relate the consequences of maternal human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) to the management of the infant in the neonatal period. 8. Identify physical examination findings suggestive of a congenital cardiac defect. 9. Explain the special care needed by a newborn with an inborn error of metabolism. 10. Discuss how to identify infants in need of resuscitation and the appropriate method of resuscitation based on the antepartal/labor record and physiologic indicators apparent at birth. 11. Based on clinical manifestations, differentiate among the various types of respiratory distress in the newborn and the nursing care related to each type.	2	0	3

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Care of the High Risk Newborn (cont'd)	12. Discuss selected metabolic abnormalities, their effects on the newborn, and their nursing implications. 13. Explain how Rh incompatibility or ABO incompatibility can lead to the development of hyperbilirubinemia. 14. Describe the nursing assessment that would lead the nurse to suspect newborn sepsis. 15. Relate the consequences of selected maternally transmitted infections to the management of the infant in the neonatal period.			
Family Planning and Infertility	1. Identify the components of fertility. 2. Summarize the physiologic and psychologic effects of infertility. 3. List spermicides currently available in the United States. 4. Discuss various fertility treatments available and the nurse's role in them. 5. Compare the barrier methods of contraception with regard to correct use, advantages, and disadvantages. 6. Compare types of hormonal methods of birth control. 7. Contrast the forms of sterilization with regard to risk, effectiveness, advantages, and disadvantages.	2	0	3
Childbearing Family with Special Needs, Women's Health	1. Describe the major factors that contribute to teenage pregnancy. 2. Identify the physical, psychologic, and sociologic risks faced by an adolescent who is pregnant. 3. Discuss the reactions of the adolescent's family and social support groups to her pregnancy. 4. Compare vulvovaginal candidiasis and bacterial vaginosis. 5. Differentiate between helpful and nonhelpful responses in caring for families experiencing perinatal loss and grief. 6. Identify nursing diagnoses and interventions to meet the special needs of parents and their families related to perinatal loss and grief. 7. Describe the physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and spiritual responses experienced during grieving associated with perinatal loss. 8. Discuss perinatal loss including etiology, diagnosis, and the nurse's role in facilitating the family's mourning process. 9. Delineate the physical and psychologic aspects of menopause. 10. Identify causes of amenorrhea. 11. Delineate the risks/benefits of using complementary and alternative therapies. 12. List the social, psychologic, political, and cultural factors that contribute to the occurrence of domestic violence and sexual assault. 13. Describe ways in which psychologic, physical, and sexual abuse are used by batterers to maintain power and control in abusive relationships. 14. Discuss the cultural implications of female genital mutilation. 15. Discuss abnormal uterine bleeding and abdominal masses. 16. Contrast the common benign and malignant breast disorders. 17. Relate the implications of pelvic inflammatory disease for future fertility to its pathologic origin, signs and symptoms, and treatment. 18. Summarize modes of transmission, treatments, and descriptions of the most commonly occurring sexually transmitted infections.	2	0	3

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Women's Health, Prevention, Common STI, Intimate Partner Violence, and Social Issues	1. Summarize modes of transmission, treatments, and descriptions of the most commonly occurring sexually transmitted infections. 2. Relate the implications of pelvic inflammatory disease for future fertility to its pathologic origin, signs and symptoms, and treatments. 3. Contrast the common benign and malignant breast disorders. 4. Discuss abnormal uterine bleeding, ovarian, and uterine masses. 5. Discuss the role that human papillomavirus plays in abnormal Pap smears. 6. Identify types of discrimination commonly faced by lesbian and bisexual women. 7. Discuss the cultural implications of female genital mutilation. 8. List the social, psychologic, political, and cultural factors that contribute to the occurrence of domestic violence and sexual assault. 9. Summarize the procedure for collecting and preserving physical evidence of sexual assault. 10. Discuss the role of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) nurse. 11. Discuss characteristics of the three phases typically included in a cycle of violence and describe how partners generally react during each phase. 12. Describe the nurse's role in planning and providing care for victims of intimate partner violence.	2	0	3

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
30	0	45