

Course Code: NUR 258

Course Title: Medical-Surgical Nursing III

Department: Nursing

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.2 - Occupational/Technical Instruction

CIP Code: 51.3801

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-7-5

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 7

Total: 5

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Nursing care of complex patients with alterations in circulation, peripheral and vascular; respiration, acute and chronic; multi-organ failure and shock due to multiple causes, and burn patients; as a result of an acute, chronic, or traumatic illness. Emphasis is placed upon critical thinking, time management, delegation, and prioritization of multiple patients.

General Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to successfully care for complex patients with alterations in circulation, peripheral and cardiovascular; respiration, acute and chronic, multi-organ failure and shock due to multiple causes, and burn patients, as a result of an acute, chronic, or traumatic illness. Emphasis is placed upon critical thinking, time management, delegation, and prioritization of multiple patients. To prepare the student to sit for and pass the NCLEX successfully.

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 236, NUR 238, and NUR 255

Credit or concurrent enrollment in NUR 215, NUR 257, ENG 102, and SOC 101

Admission into the Nursing program

Methods of Evaluation

1 midterm. 1 final exam. 4-6 chapter exams. 2-4 quizzes. 1 narrative reflection evaluating professional leadership clinical. 1 short APA research paper evaluating personal leadership style. 1 semester-long, evidence-based research, team project researching a current National Patient Safety Goal.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Laptop on exam days

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.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Cardiovascular	1. Describe the relationship between anatomical structures and the physiological function of the cardiovascular system. 2. Incorporate assessment of cardiac risk factors into patient's health history and physical assessment of the patient with cardiovascular disease. 3. Discriminate between normal and abnormal assessment findings of the cardiovascular assessment. 4. Compare the different methods of hemodynamic monitoring with regard to indications for use, potential complications, and nursing responsibilities. 5. Analyze elements of an EKG rhythm strip in relationship to electrical stimulation and mechanical response. 6. Describe appropriate medical, electrical, surgical, and pharmacological interventions to maintain normal cardiac function. 7. Describe the pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, diagnostics, and treatment options for coronary atherosclerosis, angina pectoris, and myocardial infarction. 8. Define and describe vascular and valvular disorders of the heart, including the pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, and the medical/surgical treatment options. 9. Define and describe infectious diseases and myopathies of the heart, including the pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, and the medical/surgical treatment options. 10. Identify the etiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, and appropriate treatment options including pharmacological interventions for patients with heart failure. 11. Create an education plan for patients with acute/chronic heart disease, including infectious diseases, myocardial infarction, valvular disease, and heart failure. 12. Identify anatomic and physiologic factors that affect peripheral blood flow and tissue oxygenation. 13. Compare and contrast causes, pathophysiological changes, clinical manifestations, medical/nursing management, and prevention of diseases affecting the arteries and veins. 14. Describe the prevention and management of patients with venous thromboembolism, venous insufficiency, leg ulcers, and varicose veins. 15. Define normal/abnormal blood pressure parameters. 16. Describe risk factors and treatment options including lifestyle modifications and medication therapy for hypertension.	24	0	45

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Pulmonary	1. Describe the structures and function of the pulmonary system, the processes of ventilation, diffusion, perfusion, and ventilation-perfusion imbalances. 2. Compare and contrast normal and abnormal assessment findings, including presenting symptoms. 3. Identify diagnostic tests used to evaluate pulmonary function. 4. Describe the nursing management of patients receiving oxygen therapy, including patients who are intubated and on mechanical ventilation. 5. Explain the principles of chest drainage and the nursing responsibilities when caring for a patient with a chest drainage system. 6. Create a framework using the nursing process to develop a plan of care for the pulmonary patient. 7. Describe the nursing management of patients with upper and lower airway disorders. 8. Compare and contrast the upper/lower respiratory tract infection/disorder according to cause, incidence, clinical manifestations, management, and the significance of preventive health care. 9. Describe the therapeutic management techniques of acute respiratory distress syndrome as related to the underlying pathophysiology of the syndrome. 10. Describe risk factors and measures appropriate for prevention and management of pulmonary embolism, occupational lung disease, atelectasis, and aspiration. 11. Describe the complications of chest trauma and the clinical manifestations and nursing management. 12. Analyze and describe the pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, risk factors, patient education, and treatment for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), bronchiectasis, asthma, and cystic fibrosis.	12	0	44
Emergency Nursing	1. Evaluate the interdisciplinary team efforts in caring for the patient, the patient's family, and significant others in the emergency room setting. 2. Identify priority of care for a patient with multiple system injuries. 3. Compare and contrast the emergency management of patients with heat stroke, frostbite, and hypothermia. 4. Specify the similarities and differences of the emergency management of patients with swallowed or inhaled poisons, skin contamination, and food poisoning. 5. Explain the emergency management of patients with drug overdose, acute alcohol intoxication, those who have been sexually assaulted, and those who have been victims of human trafficking. 6. Differentiate between the emergency care of patients who are overactive, who are violent, who are depressed, and those who are suicidal.	3	0	2
Shock	1. Describe shock and its underlying pathophysiology. 2. Compare and contrast the clinical findings during the different stages of shock. 3. Describe similarities and differences in the different types of shock: hypovolemic, cardiogenic, neurogenic, anaphylactic, and septic. 4. Describe the appropriate medical, surgical, pharmacological, nutritional, and psychological interventions for the different types/stages of shock. 5. Evaluate medical and nursing management priorities when treating patients with multiple organ dysfunction syndrome.	3	0	4

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Burns	1. Compare and contrast normal and abnormal assessment of skin integrity. 2. Identify the incidence of burn injury in the United States. 3. Explain the factors that affect the severity of a burn injury. 4. Describe the local and systemic effects of a major burn injury. 5. Compare priorities of care and potential complications for each phase/stage of burn recovery. 6. Calculate fluid replacement requirements during the emergent/resuscitative phase of a burn injury. 7. Describe and evaluate the nurse's role in burn wound prevention and management. 8. Create a framework using the nursing process for the care of a burn patient. 9. Recognize the psychosocial challenges associated with burn injuries and identify strategies for intervention.	3	0	2
Leadership	1. Assume the role of a team member or team leader based on the situation, care setting, and system requirements, as determined by management (systems-based care). 2. Collaborate with members of the health care team to implement and/or adjust the plan of care (team/collaboration). 3. Function to the full scope of safe nursing practice, inclusive of management/leadership opportunities, as dictated by specific state RN regulations (safety). 4. Incorporate management/leadership strategies in providing team-based care (team/collaboration). 5. Describe and develop positive leadership qualities observed during the leadership clinical experiences. 6. Integrate leadership qualities observed in the leader followed during the leadership clinical experiences. 7. Evaluate the clinical leadership experiences through written self-reflection of the actual experiences.	0	0	8

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	105