

MSN Course Descriptions and Objectives

NURS 6000 Leadership Development

Provides opportunities for students to examine theories of leadership and the characteristics of effective leaders. Explores the meaning of leadership within the context of nursing practice and the leadership role of the graduate-level nurse. Facilitates exploration of individual leadership abilities and the development of leadership characteristics that enhance professional ability and credibility.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the role of the nurse as leader within the profession
2. Analyze and explore leadership characteristics that enhance professional credibility within nursing practice
3. Critically evaluate individual leadership abilities as applied to nursing practice
4. Create a plan for enhancing individual leadership abilities as applied to nursing practice

NURS 6050 Nursing Informatics

Introduces nursing informatics theory, evolving practice applications, and skill development. Discusses human factors essential to effective application of nursing informatics in practice. Applies technical skills and processes for the integration of nursing informatics into nursing education and clinical practice settings.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Apply theory related to computer-human interfaces, ethics, confidentiality and privacy, caring, and nursing informatics to nursing education or nursing practice
2. Utilize computer technology for documentation, communication, client education, professional development, and networking
3. Explore the use of online environments for instruction, content sharing, commerce, and provision of health related services
4. Discuss and use principles of usability, learnability, memorability, likeability, readability, and aesthetics in the context of nursing informatics in education and practice
5. Customize an online environment to teach a selected nursing topic

Nursing 6200 Advanced Nursing Theory

Provides students opportunities to critique and deconstruct extant and emerging theories as they relate to nursing. Explores the relationships among theory, knowledge, science, and evidence-based nursing practice. Facilitates the advancement of nursing practice based on theoretical principles.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss and provide examples of the process of theory development within the context of nursing practice
2. Critique extant and emerging theories as applied to nursing practice
3. Explain how theory influences knowledge, science, and evidence-based nursing practice
4. Analyze and explore nursing practice-related concepts
5. Create a beginning framework for nursing practice

NURS 6250 Advanced Nursing Research

Prepares students to explore, critique, synthesize, and utilize appropriate research findings to resolve nursing problems and improve outcomes. Incorporates various research designs in the development of nursing practice. Applies research methodology and ethical considerations in development of a research proposal for evidence-based practice.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Use scientific inquiry to explore problem(s) and need(s) within nursing
2. Discuss the use of theoretical and conceptual frameworks within research processes and the context of the selected research designs
3. Identify appropriate research methodology and designs in the development of evidence-based nursing research
4. Apply ethical, legal, and regulatory considerations in the design of nursing research
5. Critique trustworthiness of quantitative and qualitative nursing research studies
6. Develop a nursing research proposal
7. Utilize evidence to evaluate nursing practice outcomes

NURS 6300 Advanced Nursing in Health Systems and Policy

Prepares students for their role in becoming change agents within the workforce. Provides students opportunity to critique current healthcare policies, including the effects policies have on current nursing practice, and current healthcare systems. Helps students identify changes that need to occur in order to advance nursing and healthcare in the future.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss current healthcare systems with emphases in local, national, and global arenas, and how these emphases impact current nursing practice
2. Incorporate the principles of current healthcare initiatives in a critique of current health policies
3. Compare and contrast government health programs with private sector programs in providing healthcare for individuals, families, and communities
4. Analyze the effects of access to healthcare on patient outcomes and explore alternative solutions
5. Apply principles of systems and change theory in relation to evidenced-based practice in nursing and healthcare
6. Apply concepts of systems theory and change theory in developing a program of change in healthcare

NURS 6400 Roles and Collaboration in Nursing Education

Prepares students to transition from the primary care-giver role to one of a knowledge worker in multiple settings. Prepares students to actualize the roles of the nurse educator as facilitators, motivators, mentors, consultants, colleagues, collaborators, scholars, members of the academy, and advocates in academic and clinical settings.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Apply the concepts of knowledge work in a variety of settings
2. Compare and contrast the multiple roles of nurse educators in academic and clinical settings
3. Integrate the concepts of entrepreneurship, change agent, and knowledge worker into the roles of the Nurse Educator
4. Explore the expectations of Rank, Tenure, Service and Scholarship in the role of the Nurse Educator in academia
5. Characterize types, methods, and patterns of collaboration in academic and clinical nursing education

NURS 6500 Curriculum Design and Development

Explores curriculum design and development in nursing and incorporates reviewing, restructuring, and developing curricula to meet identified learning needs. Enhances student skill and understanding of curricular processes designed to foster and advance nursing education.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the process of curriculum design and development
2. Analyze and critique missions, philosophies, and/or organizational frameworks of nursing education programs
3. Develop and critique course descriptions based on an identified mission, philosophy, and/or organizational framework
4. Develop and critique course objectives based on identified course descriptions
5. Develop and critique learning outcomes and student competencies based on identified course objectives
6. Critique and revise developed curriculum to meet learning needs
7. Critically evaluate the challenges and opportunities for curriculum design and development in nursing

NURS 6600 Teaching/Learning I: Classroom Settings

Focuses on facilitating learning in classroom settings. Incorporates aspects of the philosophy of adult education and adult learning theory, the teaching-learning process and self-evaluation through reflective thinking/processing. Provides active participation in the teaching/learning environment.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Implement a variety of classroom teaching strategies appropriate to adult learner needs, desired learner outcomes, content, and context
2. Develop classroom teaching strategies based on educational theory and evidence-based teaching practices as they pertain to nursing education
3. Engage in self-reflection and continued learning to improve teaching practices that facilitate learning in the classroom
4. Create opportunities for learners to develop their critical thinking and critical reasoning skills
5. Demonstrate skilled oral, written and electronic communication that reflects an awareness of self and others, along with an ability to convey ideas in the classroom
6. Assist learners to develop the ability to engage in thoughtful and constructive self and peer evaluation (critique) of professional nursing education literature

NURS 6700 Evaluation of Learning Outcomes

Explores the application of various methods of evaluation, measurement and grading of learning outcomes. Applies assessment techniques to various aspects of nurse education.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify learner outcomes in the domains of cognitive, psychomotor and affective learning
2. Describe instruments and instrument development to evaluate outcomes
3. Analyze assessment data to improve outcomes
4. Analyze the reliability and validity of selected measurements/instruments and evaluation methods
5. Develop and use rubrics, examinations and clinical practice evaluations to evaluate student performance
6. Create own philosophy of evaluation and measurement

NURS 6800 Teaching/Learning II: Clinical Settings

Focuses on effective teaching skills for clinical settings. Establishes teacher-learner relationships as being different than in the didactic setting.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Provide a safe learning environment in which student nurses are able to develop the ability to engage in thoughtful and constructive self and peer evaluation of clinical skills and clinical reasoning
2. Develop collegial working relationships with students, faculty colleagues, and clinical agency personnel to promote positive learning environments
3. Implement a variety of teaching strategies appropriate to learner needs, desired learner outcomes, content, and context
4. Demonstrate understanding of adult educational theory and evidence-based teaching practices by adapting them to clinical teaching circumstances
5. Demonstrate an ability to adapt clinical teaching skills to students with varying cultural differences and experience levels
6. Create opportunities in the clinical setting for student nurses to develop their critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills

NURS 6900 Synthesis of Teaching Practice

Provides opportunities for students to enact the nurse educator role in academic and/or clinical settings. Applies knowledge under the direct mentorship of academic or clinical nurse educators.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Model nurse educator roles in classroom and/or clinical settings
2. Facilitate learning, and foster nurse learner development and socialization
3. Use and share information that advances the science of nursing and nursing education
4. Engage in self-reflection to improve teaching practice

NURS 699R MSN Project or Thesis

Individualized faculty supervision of MSN thesis or project research and/or planning and implementation. May be repeated as needed for completion of thesis or project, but only six credits may be applied toward MSN degree requirements.

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Plan, implement and document a graduate-level project or research thesis
2. Generate information that advances the science of nursing and nursing education