Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi
College of Nursing and Health Sciences
NURS 4390

Success in Nursing School

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Credits: Two-semester hours (2.0)

Prerequisites: A student in the nursing program

Course Description: The course will focus on test taking strategies including time management and study techniques to facilitate the student to be successful on unit, course, and specialty exams.

Course Objectives with Specific Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify learning style to maximize studying and retention of material
2. Identify and apply time-management skills
3. Practice effective study techniques
4. Describe effective test taking strategies
5. Analyze test performance
6. Implement learned test taking strategies

Required Text:

Suggested:
Teaching / Learning Strategies:

“The some old school types complain these days that the higher education too often feels like it is all about customer service. Students and their parents believe they are paying top dollar for a product, and so they want it to be valuable in a measureable way. It’s as if they’ve walked into a department store, and instead of buying five pairs of designer jeans, they’ve purchased a 5-subject course load.

I don’t fully reject the customer-service model, but I think it’s important to use the right metaphor. It’s not retail. Instead, I’d compare college tuition to paying for a personal trainer at an athletic club. We professors play the roles of trainers, giving people access to the equipment (books, labs, our expertise) and after that, it is our job to be demanding. We need to make sure that our students are exerting themselves. We need to praise them when they deserve it and tell them honestly when they have it in them to work harder.”

– Randy Pausch, from The Last Lecture

Teaching methods include lecture, seminar, discussion, small group work, independent study of texts and library resources, computer assisted instruction, audio-visual aids and assignments. While the Professor will provide guidance and consultation, the student is responsible for identification of learning needs, self-direction, seeking consultation and demonstration of course objectives. Students will participate in the following:

1. Assignments: Students are expected to follow instructions associated with the assignments for this course. Students who are confused about an assignment should contact the faculty member in a timely manner to ensure satisfactory completion of the assignment on the week it is due. Work must progress as outlined in calendar and be turned in accordingly; Work must be completed by due dates. All work must be turned in following the instructions provided for that assignment. No late work will be accepted. (No emailed assignments will be graded.)

2. Reading: Students are expected to complete all required readings and videos.

3. Practice Testing: Test practice or quizzes are created to not only test your knowledge of content but to help you practice testing using the NCLEX style questions. Consider it as part of the application of what you have learned in this course.
4. **Appointments:** Meeting with individual students about their test taking abilities is an important part of assessment and evaluation for both the student and the instructor. Please plan on making appointments to meet with the instructor after tests in your courses to evaluate your test taking skill improvement. There are a minimum of two required meetings with a testing course faculty and two one-on-one meetings with this course faculty to discuss your progress and plan of action. If you are an eLine student, we can do this by phone or online chat.

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is mandatory in order to achieve the outcomes of this course. Please see the schedule for details of what is expected of each student.

**Announcements:**
The material in this syllabus and dates identified in the Course Calendar are subject to change. Check your Islander e-mail for all university closing updates. Check Blackboard for all course related Announcements. (All announcements are sent to your Islander email.)

**Grading Policy:**
Completion of NURS 4390 requires the successful completion of a comprehensive final, 6 quizzes and assignments to evaluate your progression in test taking techniques and the acquirement of time management skills including effective study habits. The percentage value of each requirement is as follows:

- **Instructor Signatures (2) – 10%**
- **Practice Quizzes and Homework Assignments* (6) – 60%**
- **One-on-one meetings (2) – 10%**
- **Attendance and Participation – 10%**
- **Final Exam – 10%**

**Grading scale** for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, College of Nursing & Health Sciences is:

- **A** 90-100
- **B** 83-89
- **C** 75-82
- **D** 65-74
- **F** 0-64
Assessment Guidelines:

1) The final assessment will be comprehensive.
2) Testable material is based on course, classroom, all required readings, lecture and discussion content, related material in the course syllabus, content covered by media presented in or required for class/clinical, and material given as handouts.
3) Assessment dates, times, and locations are subject to change.
4) Students will be allowed to use the calculator available on the computer or a simple calculator for medication type questions.
5) No Cell Phones, IPods/IPads, PDAs or Beepers are allowed during examination times.
6) Course faculty will review the Final Assessment and the grades will be posted on Blackboard. Those students scoring below 75 on any assessment are encouraged to make an appointment with the faculty of record to review their exam and address their concerns.

Code of Academic Integrity:

It is the responsibility of every one to behave in an ethical manner. It is the expectation that all students adhere to the academic integrity and honesty policy which is listed in your catalog. Additional information on the code of conduct and sanctions related to violations can be found in the University’s as well as the CONHS’ student handbook. Any academic misconduct (cheating or plagiarism, etc) will not be tolerated and will result in the grade of zero for the assignment/exam where the offense too place. However, if found guilty of misconduct the student is at risk of being ejected from the nursing program.

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to a penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.)

http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/docs/AcademicHonesty.pdf
http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/Articles_-_PDF/Article%20III.pdf

Students with Disabilities
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an
accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 361.825.5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

**Grade Appeal Process**
As stated in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) Handbook under section VII Policies and Procedures, a student that believes they have an academic grade appeal is encouraged to go through the CONHS academic review process prior to pursuing University Grade Appeal. See the handbook for the process.

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.