MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING

NUR 824
PRACTICUM FOR THE
PRIMARY CARE FAMILY
APN II

COURSE SYLLABUS

CREDITS: 7

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(* See Blackboard web site for course documents.)
COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Description

This course is designed to help the APN student with integration and application of assessment and management skills. The course will emphasize relevant conceptual and theoretical frameworks in the primary care management of individuals. The individual is considered within the context of family and community. The APN experience utilizes a collaborative model of primary care practice. The student will develop skills for assessment and management of complex and/or stable chronic health problems. The student will become increasingly independent in the practice setting with preceptor validation.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course the student will be able to:

1) Demonstrate a high level of advanced nursing practice by conducting assessments, engaging in therapeutic reasoning and arriving at diagnoses for individuals with stable chronic/ or complex health problems.
2) Utilize advanced independent nursing interventions when managing individuals with stable chronic health states.
3) Communicates data on clients with chronic health problems utilizing POR format.
4) Demonstrates increasing independence in clinical decision making.
5) Analyze practice philosophy and case log data to evaluate outcomes and effectiveness of care as presented in an individual portfolio and/or weekly documentation.
6) Demonstrate professional development by initiating strategies for interdisciplinary team functioning with awareness of the APN’s role in professional, ethical, legal and political issues.
Instructional Methods

Clinical Experience
All students will participate in 19 hours of Clinical plus 2 hours of clinical conference per week for 14 weeks at their selected agencies guided by a clinical faculty from that agency. The clinical faculty from the College of Nursing will be available for consultation, assistance, and evaluation. Students will be expected to continue with clinical experiences for the full 14 weeks, even if required hours completed early.

The student will provide direct services to patients/families concerning well care, health maintenance and promotion, and management of single acute illness, stable chronic illness and complex health problems. The clinical experience should provide opportunity to see patients from birth to elderly, including pregnant patients.

In providing the above direct services, students will be responsible for: (1) the client history and physical examination, (2) collaboration with clinical faculty and supervising faculty (plus other team members) on the findings and development of management plan, (3) nursing diagnosis, interventions and outcomes, and (4) recording on the client record using the S.O.A.P. – P.O.R. method.

Recording. Recording will include the Subjective and Objective findings from the patient, the Assessment including the medical and nursing diagnoses, and the management Plan, which includes: (1) diagnostic studies, i.e., lab, development assessment, etc.; (2) therapeutic measures including medication, counseling, etc.; (3) patient education; (4) outcomes. The student will generate outcome criteria for each management plan and from a master problem list. Students will turn in written documentation on selected patients, as documented in patient record. Documentation will include NIC & NOC as appropriate. See Documentation Guideline under course documents.

Caseload Data. Students are required to collect and record data on all patients they see. The procedure and process for managing caseload data will be presented at the beginning of the semester. The data will be reviewed at midterm and finals weeks. In this manner, numbers and types of
patients, and services provided can be tabulated for the educational experience.

**Web-Based Activities**

We are utilizing Blackboard (BB) as the basis for this course. BB is a web-based classroom experience that allows material to be up to date with easy access. It is the individual students responsibility to learn how to work through the system.

Weekly reading, course information and forms, course documents, activities, grades and discussion board are all located in BB. It is strongly suggested that you check into BB on a frequent basis as it is the students responsibility to be present and active in the course. A portion of Professional Participation score is based on your participation in BB.

Access to BB is through the College of Nursing web page and then accessing NUR 824 course syllabus. Another route is [http://www.blackboard.msu.edu](http://www.blackboard.msu.edu). Access to BB requires use of your MSU pilot account.

**Clinical Conference Topics**

The 2 hours of time spent in clinical conference are for the student, peers and clinical faculty to review cases seen that are presented and also to bring up-to-date info on various topics that are selected by the faculty. Students are to divide the material among the group of 5 to 6 students and share the information with all present. Try to include pediatric info for the topics selected as well. Be prepared to provide handouts to all group members for them to use in the future.

**Course Evaluation and Grading**

A grade of 3.0 (80%) must be achieved in order to pass NUR 824. The MSU 4.0 grading system will be utilized to report final course grades.

Points will be rounded to whole numbers using the 0.5 rule. Points at > will be rounded up while those < 0.5 will be rounded down to the nearest whole number.
The following point scale will be used for final grad determination:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANGE</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>188 to 200</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>174 to 187</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160 to 173</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148 to 159</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140 to 147</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Point Determination Will Be As Follows:

- **Clinical Evaluation**: 120 points
- **Professional Participation**: 50 points
- **Portfolio**: 30 points
- **Encounter & Activity Logs**: P/F

**TOTAL** = **200**

A clinical evaluation form will be completed by the students and course clinical faculty at midterm and at the conclusion of the clinical. The rating at midterm is expected to be at a low level since it is highly unlikely that a student will be meeting end course objectives at this time. The midterm point totals are utilized to help identify areas that need work. The midterm evaluation is NOT used to calculate the final grade. Only the rating on the final evaluation will be used to determine the course grade.

The final evaluation will count for a possible of 120 points toward the final grade. The student is expected to provide rationale/evidence for their self-
rating if it exceeds a #8. The course clinical faculty evaluation will be used to calculate the final grade. If there is a discrepancy, the student must provide documentation. The clinical instructor determines the final grade decision.

**Student Responsibilities.**

Transportation to and from clinical agencies is the responsibility of the student.

Clothing: Students are to wear white lab coats or jackets while working at all clinical agencies.

ID tags, nametags should be worn on your lab coat or jacket. The format should be the following:

Jane Doe, R.N.
Family Clinical Nurse Specialist
MSU Graduate Student

Personal equipment needed at your clinical site:
1. Stethoscope
2. Pen light
3. Tape measure

**Absences:** If the student becomes ill during the semester, it is her/his responsibility to notify her/his clinical faculty, the clinical agency and the supervising faculty. All missed clinical days must be made up prior to the final week of classes. Arrangements for make-up days are to be made with the supervising faculty. **Attendance at weekly clinical conferences is required.**

Clinical agency: Each student helps in the selection process or has a site selected at a primary care clinical site for two semesters. (NUR 822 & NUR 824), thus providing continuity of care to the patients. Additionally, by remaining at the same agency for two semesters, the student and agency staff has time to develop their relationships while the student develops her/his APN role.
Any problems with site arrangement must first be discussed with the supervising faculty at the site. If the student feels that the problem is not resolved, students should discuss with the course clinical faculty or course coordinator.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Portfolio Development/ Course Material Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Medicare Documentation Guidelines (10-12) <strong>CODEC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Grief and loss issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February  5</td>
<td>Minor Emergencies (e.g. bite wounds, minor burns, corneal abrasion, insect stings, bites, tooth pain)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Insomnia and sleep disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pediatric Mental Illnesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Midterm Evaluations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-13</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Polypharmacy issues in the Elderly (Arthritic meds, OTC meds, pain meds, drug interactions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>PVD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gastroenterology Issues (IBS, HPylori, Hemorrhoids, Cholecystitis, GERD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Parenting issues/ working with families with chronic illness</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Portfolio Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Final Case Conference/ Wrap up</td>
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PORTFOLIO GUIDELINES

The class project for NUR 824 is for the student to develop her/his portfolio for when she/he has completed the MSU NP program and she/he is searching for a good match for employment.

Several items need to be included in the portfolio that will help in “selling” yourself to your potential employer. There are also several web sites available that can help (some at a cost) in helping you develop your portfolio.

What is expected for this course is for you to have an understanding of why you need to have a good portfolio and then for you to present it to your peers for review and critique. The portfolio presentations will include a “mock job interview” to sell yourself to your classmates.

This project counts for 30 points of the class grade so do your best.

What to include:

1. **Career Summary and Goals**: A description of what you stand for- work ethic, interests in the work setting.
2. **Personal Philosophy**: A description of your guiding principles and give you purpose.
3. **Traditional Resume**: Summary of your education, achievements and work experience, use chronological or functional format.
4. **Skills, Abilities and Marketable Qualities**: Detailed list of skills and experience. Include the name of skill area, performance or behavior, as well as knowledge or personal traits that help you to succeed in this skill.
5. **List of Accomplishments**: List that highlights the major accomplishments in your career to date. Accomplishments are an important section to include for a good job-search.
6. **Samples of your work**: Papers you did well on, reports, studies, projects, presentations, etc.
7. **Research, Publications, Reports**: Include published papers and conference proceedings.

8. **Testimonials and Letters of Recommendations**: A collection of any letters or thanks you have received that say you are GREAT!

9. **Awards and Honors**: A collection of any certificates of awards, honors and scholarships.

10. **Conference and Workshops**: A list of conferences, seminars and workshops you have attended or participated in.

11. **Transcripts, Degrees, Licenses, and Certifications**: A description of courses and degrees you have attained.

12. **Professional Development Activities**: A listing of professional associations and conferences you attended.

13. **Military records, awards and badges**: Military service you have done if applicable.

14. **Volunteering/ Community Service**: Any things you do to volunteer service especially if it relates to your career. This includes scouts, school activities that involve health promotion.

15. **References List**: A list of three people including full names, titles, addresses and phone numbers who will speak about your positive strengths and abilities.

16. **Brochure**: Include a brochure about what a Nurse Practitioner is and what she/he can do.

This is a lot of information to include and some of you may have areas of this that do not apply to you. That is ok. Just remember that this is something that will take some work and the final product will help you tremendously with your first Nurse Practitioner job search.

Of course, the grade will include looking at grammar, content, and presentation (both verbal and the written material)

Helpful web links will be listed on the Blackboard portion of the course.