

Graduate School of Nursing Core Course Catalog for 2019

Course Number: GSN601

Course Title: Advanced Anatomy

Credits: 3

Course Description: This foundational didactic and human dissection course is designed to facilitate a thorough understanding of human anatomy. It is a specialized course building on basic knowledge attained in undergraduate nursing courses to expand the understanding and integration of human anatomy into clinical practice of the advanced practice nurse. This knowledge is expected to enhance understanding of human anatomy across the spectrum in the student's advanced practice clinical settings as well as courses in physiology, pathophysiology, and patient assessment. The course will be presented in several different modalities including didactic lectures and laboratory experiences to include cadaveric pro-sections and dissections with the assistance of a web-based dissecting guide and learning platform. Clinical application of anatomical structures for each advanced practice nursing specialty will be discussed thorough-out the course, as will operational readiness issues.

Course Number: GSN602

Course Title: Advanced Health Assessment

Credits: 3

Course Description: This course explores advanced health assessment; the foundational health history and physical examination tools needed by all advance practice nurses. Throughout the classroom and laboratory skills sessions, students will build upon existing nursing assessment competencies and tailor history and physical examination elements for both episodic complaints and full, well focused exams for populations across the lifespan. Students will devise assessments tailored to the individual's stated needs, physiologic stage of development and socio-cultural context. Formulated and executed assessments will reflect population and risk specific health promotion and disease prevention.

Course Number: GSN603

Course Title: Advanced Physiology

Credits: 3

Course Description: This core course will provide graduate nursing students with the normal physiologic principles that are necessary for the advanced nurse practitioner. Topics are organized to provide an in-depth understanding of the function and regulation of body systems to maintain homeostasis. Emphasis is placed on the integration of the structure and functional systems within the human body. The course content ranges from cellular mechanisms to the major body organ systems, providing the basis for understanding physiologic derangements.

Course Number: GSN606

Course Title: Advanced Pathophysiology I

Credits: 2

Course Description: In this the first in a two core course sequence in which students engage in the advanced exploration of the scientific underpinnings of pathophysiology. Students will examine the changes in physiological parameters that occur resulting from selected disease processes as they occur across the life span. This course is a bridge between the basic sciences,

such as anatomy, and the clinical sciences of Advanced Nursing Practice. This course will expand knowledge of pathophysiologic processes so as to expand the knowledge of concepts relevant for advanced practice nurse and to support more autonomous practice in the Uniformed Services health care system.

Course Number: GSN607

Course Title: Advanced Pharmacology I

Credits: 2

Course Description: This is the first of two pharmacology courses and will be taught in Fall 1 and delivered concurrently with pathophysiology. This course provides students with the pharmacologic concepts required to practice safely in advanced practice nursing roles while emphasizing health promotion and disease prevention. In addition, students will understand how pharmacologic management may vary across the continuum of care and appreciate how the inter-relatedness of drugs used by different healthcare professionals impacts patient care and outcomes. Heavy emphasis is placed on understanding the pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacogenomics and biochemical pathways. Side effects, toxicities and contraindications within important classes of drugs and modifications required for age, weight, gender, pregnancy and ethno-cultural differences are also reinforced. Students apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills when they are asked to integrate newly acquired pharmacological principles with legal and ethical guidelines to plan safe and effective care for individuals with acute and or chronic medical conditions across a variety of clinical environments including operational and humanitarian settings. Ultimately, students will be prepared to design individualized pharmacotherapeutic plans to safely administer pharmacologic agents.

Course Number: GSN608

Course Title: Advanced Pathophysiology II

Credits: 2

Course Description: In this the second in two core course in a two course sequence in which students engage in the advanced exploration of the scientific underpinnings of pathophysiology. Students will examine the changes in physiological parameters that occur resulting from selected disease processes as they occur across the life span. This course is a bridge between the basic sciences, such as anatomy, and the clinical sciences of Advanced Nursing Practice. This course will expand knowledge of pathophysiologic processes so as to expand the knowledge of concepts relevant for advanced practice nurse and to support more autonomous practice in the Uniformed Services health care system.

Course Number: GSN609

Course Title: Advanced Pharmacology II

Credits: 2

Course Description: This is the second of two pharmacology courses taught in the first spring semester that runs concurrent with pathophysiology. This course provides students with the pharmacologic concepts required to practice safely in advanced practice nursing roles while emphasizing health promotion and disease prevention. In addition, students will understand how pharmacologic management may vary across the continuum of care and appreciate how the inter-relatedness of drugs used by different healthcare professionals impacts patient care and outcomes. Heavy emphasis is placed on understanding the pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacogenomics and biochemical pathways. Side effects, toxicities and contraindications

within important classes of drugs and modifications required for age, weight, gender, pregnancy and ethno-cultural differences are also reinforced. Students apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills when they are asked to integrate newly acquired pharmacological principles with legal and ethical guidelines to plan safe and effective care for individuals with acute and or chronic medical conditions across a variety of clinical environments including operational and humanitarian settings. Ultimately, students will be prepared to design individualized pharmacotherapeutic plans to safely administer pharmacologic agents.

Course Number: GSN701

Course Title: Advanced Practice Role

Credits: 1

Course Description: This core course introduces the student to the multiple roles of advanced practice nurses within the Military, Civilian, and Federal Health Care systems. The historical, professional, political, and cultural components of the roles are presented, as well as legal and ethical issues in advanced practice nursing. Principles of leadership, collaboration, conflict management, negotiation, and power as related to the advanced practice role are some of the topics discussed in this course.

Course Number: GSN702

Course Title: Organizational and Systems Leadership in Healthcare

Credits: 3

Course Description: This core course provides knowledge and skills relevant to systems leadership in clinical practice with a focus on knowledge application within the student's specific Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) role when addressing complex clinical practice, safety, and organizational issues. Course content will be drawn from established literature and subject matter experts in political science, anthropology, workforce diversity, economics, human relations, communication, ethical, legal, organizational behavior, systems leadership, change management, marketing, and conflict resolution strategies as they relate to safe and effective patient centered care in complex environments. Knowledge from these theoretical perspectives will be integrated with nursing science and clinical settings as a framework for organizational and quality assessment, management of ethical dilemmas, staff and patient safety, mitigation of risks and emerging system wide practice initiatives.

Course Number: GSN703

Course Title: Ethics and Policy in Federal Health Systems

Credits: 3

Course Description: This core course introduces students to ethical and health care policy issues in federal and military practice. The course examines relationships among social, cultural, political, financial, clinical, and legal factors that influence health care delivery and policy in the Military and Federal Health Care Systems in peacetime and contingency operations. During this course, ethical, legal and federal health policy issues will be explored. Key ethical principles will be presented as a class topic and case studies will be used to demonstrate how theories, principles, frameworks, and code of ethics guide decision-making when practice, research and policy dilemmas are at hand. This course will also examine current issues and legislative actions and nursing involvement in the policy making process. Past and current health debates are used to illustrate contemporary challenges and the critical need for practice experts. The role of the

doctorally prepared nurse in influencing policy related to health care services, patient outcomes and professional nursing is emphasized. At the end of the semester, the student will be familiar with the major ethical principles and will have formulated a system for ethical decision-making in their practice. They will also understand the legislative process and how to further their profession through policy.

Course Number: GSN704

Course Title: Population Health and Epidemiology in Advanced Practice

Credits: 4

Course Description: This course provides students with an opportunity to understand the use of epidemiology to design and manage advanced health care for populations. The course builds on previous knowledge in analytic methods, policy, systems, and leadership, and includes an overview of the study and distribution of determinants of health and disease in specified populations; and the application of this study to the promotion of health, prevention and control of disease, design of health care services, and initiation of health policy for populations served by the Military/Federal Health Systems.

Course Number: GSN705

Course Title: Health Economics and Advanced Practice

Credits: 2

Course Description: This online course is designed to facilitate a thorough understanding of fundamental principles and concepts of health economics as applied to advance practice nursing to improve outcomes in support of quality and cost-effective care within the federal healthcare system. Students will be introduced to health economic principles with a focus on fiscal aspects of evidenced-based assessment, planning, analysis, implementation and evaluation of quality outcomes from both the micro and macro-level system perspective. Additionally, students will explore specialty specific issues related to health economics supporting their respective Advanced Practice roles (FNP, WHNP, RNA, PMHNP, and AGCNS).

Course Number: GSN706

Course Title: Healthcare Informatics

Credits: 3

Course Description: This required core course focuses on the application and innovation related to the collection, development, organization, analysis, and dissemination of information and technology in an interdisciplinary health care environment. Students are introduced to the role of the healthcare informaticist, healthcare information systems and the information system life cycle, the electronic health record (EHR), telemedicine, clinical decision-making tools, and other technology useful for enhancing healthcare delivery and patient safety. Special emphasis will be placed on information systems used in the Military Health System (MHS). Students will also gain an understanding of the ethical considerations, laws, and policies governing the oversight of healthcare information systems. Students will learn how to apply theory to the design, use, and manipulation of small databases to evaluate and monitor outcomes. Strategies for the use and evaluation of information used by consumers and health professionals for health promotion, early detection, disease prevention and tracking will be explored.

Course Number: GSN710

Course Title: Bedside Ultrasonography

Credits: 1

Course Description: This vertical, integrated bedside ultrasound course is designed to enhance and augment concepts learned in foundational science courses such as anatomy, physiology, pathology and supports clinical decision-making. The content reinforces the military-specific applications and aspects of ultrasound that can be especially useful in primary care, inpatient as well as austere settings such as combat and humanitarian assistance environments. Basic principles of ultrasonography are interwoven with hands-on experiences to offer students the opportunity to experience a number of different bedside ultrasonography assessments including FAST (Focused Assessment with Sonography in Trauma), RUSH (Rapid Ultrasound in Shock and Hypotension), Musculoskeletal, Cardiology, Deep Vein Thrombosis, Renal, Airway/Ventilation, Thoracic Trauma, Ocular, Aorta, Hepatobiliary, Thyroid and Female Pelvic Assessments.

Course Number: GSN711

Course Title: Integrative Medicine Methodologies

Credits: 1

Course Description: This introductory course is designed to expand student understanding of treatment options with the goal of improving patient outcomes. Course content introduces aspects of integrative medicine that are useful in all settings, as well as techniques that have been found to be particularly useful in military settings. Basic principles of integrative medicine are interwoven with hands on application of techniques such as acupuncture, guided imagery and progressive relaxation. Students will be asked to apply Evidenced Based principles to enhance their understanding of how these alternative approaches to healthcare can be effectively integrated into clinical practice.

Course Number: GSN723

Course Title: Reflective Practice: Contextual Thinking

Course Credits: 1

Course Description: This course explores the non-cognitive human elements present in every clinical encounter, and how these non-cognitive elements may impact a provider's cognitive process thereby influencing healthcare outcomes. Using personal experience, panel based sessions, online supplemental resources, written reflective essays, and small group discussions, students will be afforded the opportunity to consider their own reactions to various common and challenging situations in healthcare. They will thereafter examine their personal context, composed of one's unique and diverse life experiences, beliefs and values; analyze the implications of those reactions for patient care; and develop a plan to enhance the positive and mitigate the negative implications of those reactions. Through contemplation of the often unacknowledged assumptions and biases they bring into the clinical environment, students will increase their self-awareness, a critical skill for healthcare providers.

Participation of students from the Graduate School of Nursing and the School of Medicine is designed to facilitate students' understanding that one's profession composes only a small part of one's personal context. Such understanding offers students the ability to identify their own predispositions to labeling others (patients and colleagues alike) based on a single identifiable factor and fosters an environment in which inter-professional education and thereafter inter-professional practice is most likely to be successful.

Course Number: GSN900

Course Title: Healthcare Research

Credits: 1

Course Description: The emphasis of this course is to provide instruction on the entire research process applicable to Advanced Practice Nursing within the military and federal health care systems. The course begins with an introduction to the philosophy of science and the development of nursing science. This course highlights research ethics, fundamental design, theoretical frameworks, sampling, measurement strategies, and data collection for qualitative and quantitative nursing research.

Course Number: GSN901

Course Title: Evidence Based Practice

Credits: 2

Course Description: The content in this core course builds on the subject matter from GSN 900 Healthcare Research. Students will integrate existing knowledge of the research process and skills related to searching and summarizing literature with new knowledge and skills for critically appraising published research. The focus is to develop critical thinking skills for the evaluation and appraisal of current literature which is a foundation for evidenced based practice.

Course Number: GSN902

Course Title: Statistical Measures and Analytic Methods: Application and Critique

Credits: 2

Course Description: The content in this core course builds on the subject matter from GSN900 Healthcare Research and GSN901 Evidence Based Practice. The focus of this course is the development of critical appraisal skills, to include statistical reasoning, in advanced practice nursing students through the critique of analytic methods and statistical measures used in the healthcare literature. In a mentored setting, students will integrate existing knowledge of the research process and skills related to searching and summarizing literature with new knowledge and skills for critically appraising published research. Students will also acquire the knowledge and technological skills needed to manipulate quantitative data and use nonparametric and parametric statistics to answer research questions or test hypotheses.

Course Number: GSN903

Course Title: Translating Evidence Into Practice

Credits: 3

Course Description: This course provides students with an opportunity to explore philosophical models for translation of evidence into practice and policy. The course builds on previous knowledge in analytic methods, policy, systems, and leadership, and includes an overview of the science of and multifactorial influences on translation of evidence into practice. This course culminates in the development of the scholarly inquiry project proposal specifically seeking to improve healthcare and systems outcomes for populations and communities within Military/Federal Health Systems.

Course Number: GSN906

Course Title: DNP Project I-III

Credits: 6

Course Description:

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) project is designed to expand students' ability to apply critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and decision-making skills to clinical and systems-based problems. The focus of the DNP project is translating research into practice in the form of a practice or system improvement. Results will enhance students' ability to resolve complex client health problems, and improve processes supporting safe, effective, patient-centered care. The DNP project is organized by semester across the EBP Enterprise: GSN900, 901A, 902, 903, and 906. Each course provides the academic preparation needed to support advanced translational knowledge and the leadership skills needed to complete iterative elements of the evidence-based clinical practice and/or systems level projects. The DNP project is supported by a collaborative team consisting of the Course Coordinators, Senior Mentors (Committee Chairs), Phase II Site Directors, and Team Mentors (Committee members).