Course Number and Title:
NURS 5220
Field Experience Seminar: Evidence-based Practice – Avoidable Hospitalization Conditions

Course Credit and Contact Hours:
3 Credit Hours / 45 Contact Hours

Faculty:
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Faculty is available Monday - Friday to answer questions related to course work:
(a) by electronic office hours during regular business hours and will make every effort to respond to inquiries within a 24-48 hour period or
(b) in the office by appointment.

Prerequisites:
NURS 5910, Enrollment by permission of course faculty. Course faculty reserves the right to require specific prerequisites per the course content.

Course (Catalog) Description:
Program capstone experience that integrates nursing theory, research, and practice to fulfill the requirement of Master’s of Nursing Program.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Synthesize theory, research, and practice based knowledge
2. Each participant communicates the synthesis process and results with an oral presentation.

Topical (Content) Outline:
The focus is on caregivers and survivors of chronic conditions. Students may negotiate with the faculty for a concentrated activity that includes a strong foundation in theory, including quantitative or qualitative research methods [e.g., evidence-based practice, translational, intervention, and outcome research] or educational data-based projects.

NOTE: Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 the focus is on creating educational materials.
EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE SEMINAR
Evidence-based Practice - Avoidable Hospitalization Conditions

Purpose:
The Seminar gives the student the opportunity to create written educational Tips suitable for lay people (caregivers), as well as develop a Mediasite Presentation using PowerPoint slides that explains the Tips. The evidence-based topics for the Tips will be randomly assigned by the instructor to the student.

In the Seminar the student will present the Tips that he/she created along with facilitating a guided discussion on the evidence-based practice topics.

The Seminar affords every student the opportunity to learn more about evidence-based practice and participate in an open forum discussion.

Participation:
This Seminar will take place Fall 2014 or Spring 2015 semester. The student creates the Tips as well as the Mediasite Presentation and facilitates a guided seminar discussion.

Every student participates in the Seminar by thoughtfully answering discussion questions and respectfully critiquing assigned Tips.

BACKGROUND
Overview: Evidence-based Practice - Avoidable Hospitalization Conditions
Five conditions (pneumonia, congestive heart failure, urinary tract infections, dehydration, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/asthma) were responsible for 78% of the potentially avoidable hospitalizations across settings: nursing facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and home and community based services.

Potentially avoidable hospitalizations are hospitalizations that would probably not have occurred if high-quality medical care and long-term services and supports had been provided. Lists of conditions associated with potentially avoidable hospitalizations often include exacerbations and complications of chronic conditions such as congestive heart failure or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, conditions that are “hazards of immobility” such as pressure ulcers or falls and related injuries, dehydration, and infectious diseases such as pneumonia, gastroenteritis, and urinary tract infections. These conditions are considered potentially avoidable because they may either be prevented entirely, or may be treatable without requiring a hospitalization, especially if they are identified quickly. They include conditions that are considered ambulatory care sensitive conditions (i.e., avoidable if adequate disease management and medical monitoring and intervention are available) and those that are nursing care sensitive (i.e., with adequate evaluation and attention to factors like safety, nutrition, fluid intake, and skin integrity).


Family members (relatives, friends, or neighbors) are in a position to provide care and support to each other and be proactive to identify these avoidable hospitalization conditions. These unpaid family members who provide care to individuals with conditions in need of assistance need to learn how to become competent caregivers to protect them from harm. Please read the following websites, as there are quite a few sites that discuss this issue. In addition to the links, please also read the linked book chapter, although broader in scope, as it offers more background information on these important issues.

Websites:
http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/homecare/42774
http://blog.ecaring.com/7-ways-caregivers-can-prevent-readmissions/
Nurses with advanced degrees are in a perfect position to create educational Tips about these conditions for lay people, the unpaid caregivers, who can be effective advocates to quickly identify early warning signs in caring for loved ones living in nursing facilities and home settings. These educational Tips have the potential to prevent, or control with early treatment, these conditions and prevent hospitalizations. You may want to search the Internet for "how can caregivers prevent hospital readmissions" to gather some more ideas.

**Teaching/Learning Strategies:**
- Small group discussion
- One-to-one mentoring
- Faculty-student contracting for activities (Tips and Mediasite Presentation)

**Evaluation Methods:**
1. Written evaluation of contracted activity (written Tips and Mediasite Presentation)
2. Completed seminar guided discussion
3. Faculty reserves the right to change course requirements in exceptional circumstances with fair notice to students.

**Grading Scale/Policy:**
1. Assignments will be reviewed for quality of content, originality, adherence to written criteria/guidelines, and original thought related to the subject selected for the activity.
2. The grading scale is Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.
3. Students in jeopardy of failing at midterm are identified, provided written notice of performance, and actions necessary to improve/pass the course, and referred to the SARP committee.

**Required Texts and/or Website:**


**Other Readings:**
Related to topics.

**Course Requirements: Expectations of Students in Course**
1. Students are expected to abide by University of Toledo / College of Nursing Academic Honesty Policies.
2. The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or if you believe you have a disability and want to find out about requesting academic accommodations/adjustments in this course please contact the Office of Academic Access (Rocket Hall 1820; 419.530.4981 or http://www.utoledo.edu/success/academicaccess/).

3. Assignments must be submitted on time unless special arrangements are made with the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that the instructor receives the assignment.

4. Submitted assignments will be reviewed for quality content, originality, adherence to paper criteria/guidelines, and original thought related to the subject selected.

5. Faculty reserves the right to change course requirements in exceptional circumstances with fair notice to student.