

NURS 486: Professional Nursing Synthesis

Narrative:

The course prepares senior students in the final semester of the undergraduate Baccalaureate Nursing Program to integrate liberal education and professional nursing concepts as the cornerstones for generalist nursing practice and for the development of responsible citizens in a global society. This narrative explains specific aspects of the course that are most relevant to the goals of the Foundational Studies Program.

Integrate multiple ways of knowing in a thematic approach to a particular topic or issue. B. Carper's (1978) Ways of Knowing are integrated throughout *Professional Nursing Synthesis* (486) because they conceptualize the broad scope of knowledge that accounts for nursing's holistic perspective. Empirical Knowing is most closely associated with science and theory that is considered objective, abstract, often quantifiable and verifiable. Aesthetics involves the art of nursing and is expressed through the nurse's empathy, caring, skillfulness, and compassion. Personal Knowing is concerned with the therapeutic use of self in the nurse-client relationship and finding meaning in experiences. Ethical Knowing focuses on matters of obligation and morality and incorporates issues such as protecting confidentiality and privacy, treating patients fairly and equally, communicating truthfully, and fostering patients' autonomy and freedom (Haynes, Butcher, & Boese, 2004). Carper's Ways of Knowing are applied to N486 concepts of nursing theories, professionalism, contemporary issues and trends in nursing and the complex health care delivery system, cultural diversity, spirituality, healthy environment, and global health.

Engage in a project or conduct research that makes use of multiple ways of knowing to address a particular topic or issue. Students select a specific topic related to professional nursing and/or health care, review the literature, participate as a member of a team, and participate in a debate. Ethical dilemmas, providing culturally competent care in a multicultural environment, the nurse's role in helping patients and families find meaning in pain and suffering, professional identity and accountability, and core nursing values are used as frameworks for classroom discussion and critical thinking activities. Students explore significant methods for protecting and maintaining a healthy environment as part of a culminating class project in which the focus is responsible citizenship.

Analyze and write at an advanced level. Scholarship for graduates from a baccalaureate nursing program involves identification of practice issues, appraisal and integration of evidence, and evaluation of outcomes (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2010). Students are required to select a topic related to the profession of nursing and/or the complex and changing health care system and demonstrate advanced writing skills using APA 6th edition format. Since dissemination of knowledge is a critical element of scholarly practice, the paper will be written in the form of an Opinion-Editorial which could be submitted for publication in a local newspaper. In addition, in-class writing assignments and a Professional Development/Life Long Learning Plan reflect future goals, career planning and intentions for continuing education and/or graduate level study.

Demonstrate the ability to effectively orally communicate the results of projects to an appropriate audience: Effective communication and collaboration among health care professionals is imperative to providing patient-centered care. Interactive and leadership development activities such as classroom debates, negotiation and conflict resolution, and event planning are designed to assist students in refining communication and collaborative skills and in producing positive professional working relationships.

Indiana State University
College of Nursing, Health, and Human Services
Baccalaureate Nursing Department

Prefix and Number	Nursing 486
Credit Hours	Three Theory Hours
Course Title	Professional Nursing Synthesis
Prerequisites	N424 and N450 for pre-licensure students; or 450 for RN-BS in Nursing students
Prerequisites or Corequisites	N470; N484
Faculty	Dale Ann O'Neal Office: 407 Nursing Building Telephone Number: 237-3020 Email Address: Dale.O'Neal@indstate.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course integrates, synthesizes, and reflects on issues of professionalism, professional goals, and professional nursing practice informed through multiple ways of knowing and experiences grounded in historical, literary, artistic, scientific, and technological perspectives. Issues relevant to contemporary nursing practice and current health care trends are explored. Three classroom hours per week. [Foundational Studies: Integrative Upper-Division Electives]

Goal Statement of Foundational Studies Program

The Foundational Studies program is designed so that ISU graduates can analyze problems, think critically and creatively, integrate a variety of approaches to gain knowledge, recognize the ethical, social, and cultural implications of issues, and communicate professionally, persuasively, and effectively. **Nursing 486 meets the requirement for the Foundation Studies Integrative Upper Division-Elective.**

Program Objectives of Foundational Studies Program

Students will:

1. Locate, critically read, and evaluate information to solve problems;
2. Critically evaluate the ideas of others;
3. Apply knowledge and skills within and across the fundamental ways of knowing (natural sciences, social and behavioral sciences, arts and humanities, mathematics, and history);
4. Demonstrate an appreciation of human expression through literature and fine and performing arts;
5. Demonstrate the skills for effective citizenship and stewardship;
6. Demonstrate an understanding of diverse cultures within and across societies;
7. Demonstrate the skills to place their current and local experience in a global, cultural, and historical context;
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical implications of decisions and actions;
9. Apply principles of physical and emotional health to wellness;
10. Express themselves effectively, professionally, and persuasively both orally and in writing.

***Professional Nursing Synthesis* serves as an Integrative Upper- Division Elective for the Indiana State University 2010 Foundational Studies Program (and remains a GE 2000 capstone requirement) and must meet certain objectives as described in the following section of the course syllabus.**

Learning Objectives for Integrative Upper-Division Electives

1. Integrate multiple ways of knowing in a thematic approach to a particular topic or issue;
2. Engage in a project or conduct research that makes use of multiple ways of knowing to address a particular topic or issue;
3. Analyze and write at an advanced level;
4. Demonstrate the ability to effectively orally communicate the results of projects to an appropriate audience.

COURSE OUTCOMES: LEVEL FOUR

Students completing the course will be able to:

1. Integrate and synthesize theoretical concepts, evidence based knowledge, and other ways of knowing to professional nursing practice (**FS #3**; Critical Thinker: Competency 2).
2. Refine capacity for independent thinking, critical analysis, and reasoned inquiry (**FS #1**; Critical Thinker: Competency 1).
3. Enhance capacity for making informed judgments and reasonable choices (**FS #2**; Critical Thinker: Competency 3).
4. Acquire knowledge and intellectual skills that encourage participatory citizenship, professionalism, **ethical responsibility**, ecology, economic, and political changes (**FS #5 and 8**; Leader: Competency 3; Professional; Competency 3).
5. Assess and negotiate cultural adoptions of traditions and healing practices (**FS #6**; Leader: Competencies 1, 2, and 3; Life-long Learner: Competency 2).
6. Critically analyze the current major issues confronting the nursing profession (**FS # 7 and 9**; Critical Thinker: Competency 4).
7. Articulate rationale for personal position on specific issue in nursing and health care (**FS #9 and 10**; Communication: Competencies 2, 3, and 4).
8. Evaluate the impact of selected social forces on nursing practices and health care policy (**FS # 7**; Critical Thinker: Competencies 1 and 4).
9. Evaluate current proposed solutions and initiatives for resolution of the nation's most pressing health care problems (**FS # 1, 2, 3, 5, 6**; Critical Thinker: Competency 1; Advocate: Competencies 1, 2, and 3).
10. Develop strategies for intervention at the societal level using theories of leadership, power, and change (**FS #1, 2, 3, 5, 10**; Leader: Competency 4; Life-long Learner: Competencies 2, and 4; Advocate: Competencies 1, 2, and 3).
11. **Integrate the art of nursing through an appreciation of human expression through literature, music, and art (FS # 4; Provider of Care: Competencies 2 and 3).**

In addition to meeting the Course Outcomes (correlated with the Baccalaureate Nursing Program Outcomes and Foundational Studies Objectives as reflected above), *Professional Nursing Synthesis* is designed to assist students in building skills for applied learning through the development of critical thinking skills, information literacy skills, and advanced writing skills which will be evaluated through a graded writing component and participation in a team debate.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Aucoin, J. (2006). *Ready Set RN*. Overland Park: Assessment Technologies Institute. The fee previously paid will cover the first and second attempts of the ATI Test. If a 3rd retake is necessary, an additional fee is required.

METHODS OF TEACHING/LEARNING:

The methods of instruction include assigned readings; faculty and student presentations; debates; examinations; writing assignments; guest lectures; classroom and small group discussion; interactive, experiential, and critical thinking activities; vignette analysis; computer-assisted technology, and videos.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

The methods of evaluation include in-class written assignments, unit examinations and quizzes, NCLEX Practice Questions, ATI RN Comprehensive Predictor Test, Critical Thinking Exit Examination, formal APA papers, student designed presentations, debates, leading group discussions, projects, and class participation.

GRADING SCALE FOR STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS: Total Points 530

Minimal Grade for Passing and Minimal Grade for Senior Paper: 75%

517-530	98-100%	A+
491-516	93- 97%	A
475-490	90- 92%	A-
459-474	87- 89%	B+
438-458	83- 86%	B
421-437	80- 82%	B-
411-420	78- 79%	C+
398-410	75- 77%	C
368-397	70- 74%	C-
358-367	68- 69%	D+
342-357	65- 67%	D
320-341	60- 64%	D-
<319		F

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignment:	Points:
OP-ED Paper	100
4 Unit Tests	180
Great Debate	100
NCLEX Questions	60
Nurse Practice Act Quiz	10
ATI RN Comprehensive Test	70
Critical Thinking Exit Test	
Total	10
	530

PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS:

As stated in the Undergraduate Catalog and the School of Nursing Student Handbook, a student must achieve a **75%** in each nursing course. Only one nursing course below **75%** may be repeated in the program of study. Students earning below **75%** for a course grade in two courses, or two WF (withdrawal failing) in nursing courses will be dismissed from the major.

ATI RN Comprehensive Predictor Test:

Successful completion of the ATI RN Comprehensive Predictor Test is a Baccalaureate Nursing Program requirement and testing will be conducted in Nursing 486. Practice tests in all content areas will be available for review modules that students have previously purchased during prior semesters. Comprehensive practice tests will also be available before the first proctored RN Comprehensive Predictor Test date. 2000 Practice Questions are required and must be verified prior to the first ATI Test. The Practice Questions will count toward 60 of the total course points. ATI Payments must be made the first week of the semester.

A passing score will be an Individual Composite Adjusted Score of 72% or higher. Students achieving 72% on the first attempt will receive 70 total points in partial fulfillment of N486 course requirements. Remediation is required if the individual adjusted score is below 72% and will consist of completion of 1000 practice items at 80% proficiency or written documentation that each concept or topic that was missed has been reviewed. The documentation of the second remediation option must consist of a paragraph about each topic, the page number, and title of references in which the information was found. Students must show proof of remediation in order to gain entrance into the testing environment for the second attempt.

Students achieving 72% on the second attempt will receive 60 total points in partial fulfillment of N486 course requirements. Students achieving below 72% on the second proctored ATI Examination will be required to complete additional remediation of 1000 practice items with proficiency at the 80% level or written documentation that each concept or topic that was missed has been reviewed as described in the previous paragraph. Students must show proof of remediation in order to gain entrance into the testing environment for the third attempt.

Only three testing attempts are allowed each semester. Students will be charged an additional fee for Exam 3 and must obtain the Index for the test, submit the Index and payment to the Controller's Office, and take the receipt to the Dean's Office. Students achieving above 65% will receive 50 total points in partial fulfillment of course requirements and Students achieving less than 65% will receive zero points for the ATI Test component of the course. Students scoring below 72% must schedule a required individual conference to discuss remediation plans for NCLEX preparation. An incomplete grade (IN) will be assigned in NURS 486 to students who do not complete the RN Comprehensive Predictor protocol to assess NCLEX-RN readiness.

Registered nurses who may be enrolled in the on-campus section of Nursing 486 will not be required to complete ATI Testing and the grading scale will be adjusted appropriately in calculating final grades. Total number of points for registered nurses will be 460 instead of 530. All remaining assignments will be required.

Critical Thinking Exit Examination

A Critical Thinking Test will be given at some point during the semester and administered by the Office of Assistant Dean or by the ATI Office for the purpose of program evaluation. The examination will count as ten points toward total course points and no benchmark is required. It is recommended that students bring paper and pencil to the examination to assist with calculations and analysis of the questions.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to attend all classes as indicated in the [Indiana State University Undergraduate Catalog](#) and to participate in classroom activities and discussion. Attendance may be taken during any one of the three hour class periods each week. If the student misses more than two classes, five points will be deducted from the total course grade for each additional absence.

Emergency Services for Natural or Catastrophic Events

Unfortunately a catastrophic event could occur on a local, regional, or national level that disables communication to or from Indiana State University. The student should provide for their own and family safety and contact their instructor via phone, private email, or thru alternate provided numbers. Every effort on the faculty's part will be made to reasonably attempt to continue with the course and to meet the course objectives. If for any reason there is no internet or phone communication available for an extended period of time, postal service will be used to communicate between the faculty and student. Courses that have a clinical component may not be able to continue and in this instance the student will be awarded an *incomplete* until a revised completion plan can be determined. The Department of Public Safety website can be accessed at <http://www.indstate.edu/pubsafety/> Emergency Response Plan and other documents concerning student and faculty safety can be found at this web site.

Accommodations and Support

Indiana State University seeks to provide effective services and accommodation for qualified individuals with documented disabilities. If you would benefit from an accommodation because of a documented disability, you are required to register with Disability Support Services at the beginning of the semester. Please contact the Director of Student Support Services/Disability Services at 812.237.2301 located in Gillum Hall Room 204A or visit their site at <http://web.indstate.edu/sasc/dss/services.htm> . Once registered, the Director and course instructor will ensure that you receive all the accommodations and support that Indiana State offers.

Academic Honesty

The application of the Indiana State University Academic Honesty Policy, as stated in the undergraduate catalog, will be fully adhered to in this course. Grades and degrees earned by dishonest means devalue those earned by all students and are in violation of Course Outcome #4 and the ANA Code of Ethics; therefore, it is important that students are aware of the Indiana State University Academic Honesty Policy. Academic dishonesty involves acts to subvert or compromise the integrity of the educational process.

Students are directed to the *Policy on Academic Integrity* which is available at http://www1.indstate.edu/sjp/docs/StudentGuide_AcademicIntegrity_1.pdf and in the *Code of Student Conduct* at <http://www1.indstate.edu/sjp/docs/code.pdf> Turnitin software will be used to detect academic misconduct in the course.

Use of Laptop Computers in Class

For the purposes of this course, it will be assumed that students are in compliance with the laptop policy of the university. Student use of the laptop is permitted for note taking or for accessing the course lectures, power point presentations and other course materials during all class periods as long as such usage remains within the bounds of the *Code of Student Conduct*.

Best Wishes for a successful final semester and please contact the faculty if there are any questions or concerns.