N115: Nursing as a Profession
Credits: 2 lecture
Semesters Offered: F, Sp, Su
Prerequisites: None

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to initiate and foster the professional socialization process. Content and activities expose students to issues surrounding the profession of nursing, multiple roles of nursing in society and healthcare, and concepts related to the dimensions of nursing practice: nurse, client, health and environment.

Course Objectives: The student will:

1. Discuss how critical thinking is utilized in nursing practice. (FO 3)

2. Analyze selected issues affecting the practice of professional nursing. (FO 6, 8)

3. Differentiate the multiple roles of nurses in community based practice. (FO 1, 12)

4. Discuss how nurses collaborate with other health care providers. (FO 9)

5. Examine the interrelationships of health care professionals, consumers, economics and health care delivery. (FO 10, 11)

6. Explore the impact of selected historic, political, sociocultural, and other environmental influences on nursing. (FO 2, 10)

7. Describe the influence of value systems on professional nursing. (FO 6)

8. Assess health related literature for use in evidence based practice. (FO 4, 5)

9. Demonstrate responsibility and accountability reflecting professional values. (FO 7)

Recommended Content and Concepts:

1. Application of Critical Thinking to Nursing
   Critical thinking process
   Introduction to nursing process, scientific process and clinical decision making
   Comparison with critical thinking
   Critical thinking in ethical dilemmas
   Critical thinking in reviewing articles

2. Professional Socialization
   What is nursing; include definitions by:
   a. Florence Nightingale
   b. Virginia Henderson
c. American Nurses' Association (ANA) policy statement
d. others?
Emergence of nursing as a profession
Social versus professional relationships

Responsibilities: confidentiality, liability insurance, accountability, critical thinking
Image of nursing: past/present
Educational pathways: AD, BSN, MS, etc.
College of Nursing philosophy and curriculum (Theory, research, practice)
Nursing Practice Act; Certification; ANA Standards of Care, National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX)
Advocate role
Nursing organizations: ANA/MNA/MSNA; Sigma Theta Tau/Zeta Upsilon; National League for Nursing/Montana League for Nursing; Specialty organizations

3. Selected Issues
Image of Nursing
Nursing shortage, Aging of nurses
Entry into practice
Power/female dominated/via power in organizations
Autonomy/governance
Economics as an external force
Compensation/collective bargaining/unions

4. Multiple Roles of Nursing in Society and Health Care
Advanced Practice RNs
Post baccalaureate education
Independent vs. collaborative practice
Nurse as member of health care team
Career pathways within nursing; goal setting; research, service, education
Nurse researcher
Leadership
Nursing practice models
Case manager

5. Interrelationships of Health Care Professionals, Consumers, Economics and Health Care Delivery
Introduction to rural nursing role
Advocacy: responsibility to client/consumer/community/etc. (Client/Consumer Bill of Rights)
Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs); Prospective Payment System (PPS)
Medicare; Medicaid
Economics
Health delivery systems
Consumer movement
Interdisciplinary (in & out of institutions)
Informed consent
Advance Directives

F. Selected Historic, Political, Sociocultural and Other Environmental Influences on
Nursing Economics
Selected studies on health care: Flexnor report (as relates to nursing)
Social security (Medicare, Medicaid and other health funded programs)
Cultural changes
Demographic changes
Economic influences
Age spectrum (new born and high tech/elderly and high cost of care)
Abuse of all kinds
Pollution (all kinds)
Changing health problems: increase in communicable diseases
Historical influences: Wars, pollution, economics, space program, role of women
Florence Nightingale: War, epidemiology, nursing, hygiene, etc.
Rural vs. urban settings
Laws - impact on the profession
Health care technology
Genetics
G. Value Systems
Values clarification
Accountability (policy on refusal of patient care)
Human rights - Hospital Bill of Rights; Nursing Home Residents' Rights
ANA Code of Ethics
Ethical dilemmas (introduction)
Misconduct (e.g., Montana Nurse Practice Act statements)

8. Review health related literature

Examples of Learning Activities:

Web-based content modules
Small group discussions
Values clarification assignment
Literature searches/APA utilization

Approved by UAAC September 17, 2007
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