NRSG 115: 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)
Nurse Practice Act; Certification; ANA Standards of Care; National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN)
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

6. Selected Historic, Political, Sociocultural and Other Environmental Influences on Nursing
   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

7. 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

   Suggested Student Learning Activities:

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

   Approved by UAAC: February 1, 2010
   Approved by Faculty: February 8, 2010