N388: Introduction to Research in Nursing and Health

Credits:  2    Lecture:  2
Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring
Pre-requisites: STAT 216, junior status or RN, or consent of instructor

Course Description: This course introduces students to the research process. It is designed to assist the student in developing knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be an informed consumer of nursing and health related research. Critical questions about nursing practice are formulated, and researchable problems are identified. Students are taught to critically examine research studies, and to consider the applicability of findings to clinical practice.

Course Objectives:
1. Describe the roles of the professional nurse in research.
2. Distinguish between researchable and non-researchable nursing problems.
3. Discuss approaches to data management and analysis that augment nursing decision-making.
4. Critique research reports with a focus on applicability to clinical nursing practice.
5. Discuss the research process as a means of advancing nursing knowledge.
6. Discuss the legal and ethical implications of research.
7. Evaluate sources of information for validity.
8. Discuss the interface between nursing research and research of other disciplines.
9. Discuss the importance of research findings as the foundation for evidence based nursing.
10. Demonstrate responsibility and accountability reflecting professional values.

Recommended Content:
A. General
   1. Perspectives on truth, knowledge & research.
   2. Relationship of nursing practice, research, and education.
B. Roles for professional nurses in research.
C. Researchable Nursing Problems
   1. Research problem statements / questions.
   2. Research hypotheses.
   3. Critique criteria for problem statements.
   4. Nursing problems versus those from other domains, e.g. psychology, medicine.
D. Data Management
   1. Literature reviews
   2. Ethical issues
   3. Systematic methods of data collection
   4. Organization of data
   5. Evaluation of evidence
6. Application to nursing practice

E. Evaluating Research
   1. Critique process.
   2. Critique criteria for quantitative reports.
   3. Critique criteria for qualitative reports.

E. Research Process
   1. Steps of research process.
   2. Steps of research utilization.
   3. Relationship of problem, study, dissemination of findings, and utilization.

E. Ethical Issues
   1. Protection of human participants in research.
   2. Essential elements of informed consent.
   3. Role of Institutional Review Board.
   4. Ethical obligations of nurses as:
      • Principal Investigator
      • Data collector
      • Patient advocate
   5. Animal rights.
   6. Critique criteria for ethical aspects of a study.
   7. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

F. Sources of Information
   1. Types of resources (specialty journals, www, clinicians, databases, etc.)
   2. Consultation with clinical experts
   3. Literature searches

G. Clinical application
   1. Research process and research reports
   2. Steps of Research utilization
   3. Interaction with other disciplines.

H. Professional Expectations:
   • Class Attendance
   • Timely submission of assignments
   • Preparation for and engagement in class activities
   • Ethical considerations (avoid plagiarism, credit sources)
   • Academic Misconduct Guidelines

Learning Activities:
   Lecture.
   Reading assignment.
   Group discussion.
   Guest presentation.
   Activities in pairs and small groups.
   Develop / refine a research problem.
   Critique research problem(s).
   Data collection.
   Video: Deadly Deception.
   Complete Human Participant Protections Education for Research.
   Oral and written critique of ethical components of research reports.
Interview professional.
Demonstrate critique of research report.
Oral and/or written critique of oral and/or written research reports.
  Discuss research news reports.
Homework assignment.
Mock research conference.

Visit local libraries.
Search using PubMed, CINAHL, and other.
Interview professional nurses re: changes in nursing practice and basis of change.
Discuss research news reports.

Approved by Faculty August 2002