Montana State University-Bozeman  
College of Nursing  
Master Resource Outline

N581 Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice I  
Semester Offered: Spring, Alternate Years  
Credits: 6; Lec 3, clinical lab 3  
Prerequisites: N550, N560, N531  
Pre or co-requisite: N521, N522, N555

Course Description: This course is the first of three courses designed to prepare students for advanced practice as a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) in the care of adults with acute and chronic health problems. The course includes an introduction to concepts, theories, research, and clinical management related to the care of a diverse population of both rural and urban adults with selected complex health care problems. Seminars, observational experiences, and supervised practica provide opportunities for students to engage in expert clinical practice, consultation, education and research utilization. Emphasis is placed on integrating knowledge which promotes the goals of multidisciplinary care. Students continue to explore issues surrounding implementation of the CNS role.

Course Objectives:

1. Analyze the epidemiology, physiological adaptations, and clinical manifestations of selected clinical problems and their impact on the well-being of a diverse population of adults in rural and urban settings.

2. Examine selected concepts, theories, research, and clinical practice guidelines for application to advanced practice nursing and care evaluation strategies.

3. Demonstrate beginning level CNS competencies in the roles of the expert clinician, educator, care consultant, and care manager.

4. Examine current professional issues as they relate to the student=s development in the CNS role.

Suggested Course Content:

Course content will include concepts, theories, research, and clinical management strategies related to the care of a selected population of rural adults with complex health care needs and competencies related to CNS practice in a rural environment.

- Illness trajectory / impact of major health conditions (cardiac, cancer, DM, etc)
- Clinical practice guidelines (AHRQ) / Management strategies / Evidence-based practice
- Application of theories
• Role implementation issues
• Consultant
• Educator
• Care manager
• Research utilization
• Regulatory
• Issues facing CNS practice in rural settings

Suggested learning activities:

Lecture/seminar/practica
Case studies
Patient chart review/Grand rounds
Student and guest presentations
Videos
CAI
Reading
Cooperative learning
Papers/exams
Literature Review

Approved by GAAC: February, 2003
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