N582 Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice II
Credits: 6; Lec 3, Clinical Lab 3
Semester Offered: Fall, Alternate Years
Prerequisites: N550, N560, N521 or consent of instructor
Pre or co-requisite: N522 or consent of instructor

Course Description: This course is one 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 concepts, theories, and research related to the clinical management of adults with complex health problems of the gastrointestinal, genitourinary, musculoskeletal, hematologic, and endocrine systems. Seminars and supervised practica provide the opportunity for students to develop CNS core competencies. Emphasis is placed on the nurses/nursing practice sphere of CNS influence to improve care outcomes.

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 CNS competencies of expert clinician, staff educator, and care consultant while functioning within the nurses/nursing practice sphere of influence.
4. Engage in multidisciplinary collaboration and consultation in the areas of research utilization, staff development, and change.
5. Examine current professional practice issues as they relate to the student’s development in the CNS role.

Suggested Course Content:
Concepts, theories, research, and clinical management strategies related to the multidisciplinary care of a selected population of rural adults with complex health care needs.
1) Illness trajectory / impact of major health conditions
   a. Gastrointestinal, genitourinary, musculoskeletal, endocrine, and hematologic
2) Illness management
   a. Clinical practice guidelines (AHRQ) / Management strategies / Evidence-based practice
   b. Multidisciplinary care
   c. Client assessment, implementation evaluation of outcomes
CNS core competencies related to influencing nurses/nursing practice to improve patient/client outcomes
1) Collaboration / consultation
2) Research utilization
3) Application of theories / conceptual frameworks
a. Change theory
b. Leadership theory
4) Assessment, implementation, evaluation of staff outcomes
5) Continuous quality improvement
6) Staff education / development
7) Mentoring

Suggested learning activities:
Lecture/seminar/practica
Case studies
Web-based learning
Patient chart review/Grand rounds
Staff education project
Student and guest presentations
Readings
Cooperative learning
Papers/exams
Literature Review

Approved by GAAC: March, 2006
Approved by Faculty: May, 2006