

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Master Resource Outline

N 387R: Research in Health Care

Credits: 3 (2 Lecture, 1 college lab)

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring

Pre-requisites: STAT 216 or Consent of Instructor

Course Description: Students are introduced to the research process and evidence-based practice. They will develop knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be informed consumers of health related research. Students will engage in research processes, examine research reports, and describe practice applications.

Course Objectives:

The student will:

1. Discuss the roles of research in evidence based practice. (F2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13; T2-4)
2. Recognize researchable health care problems. (F4, 13; T2-4)
3. Critique research reports with a focus on application to nursing practice. (F4, 13; T2-4)
4. Discuss the legal and ethical implications of research. (F4, 6, 12, 13; T2-4, 6, 7, 12)
5. Evaluate the validity of information from a variety of sources. (F4, 5, 13; T2-5, 10)
6. Discuss the importance of evidence as a basis for improving clinical outcomes. (F2, 4, 13; T2-5, 10)
7. Apply aspects of the research process to a selected health care issue. (F2, 5, 13; T2-5, 10)
8. Demonstrate responsibility and accountability reflecting professional values. (F6-9, 12, 13; T2, 3, 6, 8, 13)

Recommended Content:

A. General

1. Perspectives on truth, knowledge & research.
2. Relationship of nursing practice, research, and education.

B. 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.

C. 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

D. Research Process

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

F. 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:
 - Investigator

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- Data collector
 - Patient advocate
 - 5. Animal rights.
 - 6. Critique criteria for ethical aspects of a study.
 - 7. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- G. Sources of Information
1. Types of resources (specialty journals, www, clinicians, databases, etc.)
 2. Clinical experts
 3. Literature
- H. Clinical application
1. Critique research reports
 2. Steps of research utilization
 3. Interaction with other disciplines.
- I. Professional Expectations:
- Class Attendance
 - Timely submission of assignments
 - Preparation for and engagement in class activities
 - Ethical considerations (avoid plagiarism, credit sources)
 - Academic Misconduct Guidelines

Examples of Learning Activities:

Reading assignment.
Actively participate in group discussion.
Activities in pairs and small groups.
Develop / refine a research problem.
Describe researchable problem(s).
Data collection.
Video: Deadly Deception.
Complete Human Participant Protections Education for Research.
Oral and written critique of research reports.
Interview professional.
Discuss research news reports.
Simulated research conference.
Visit local libraries.
Search using PubMed, CINAHL, and other.

Examples of Research Projects:

- Investigate a health care issue
- Research a clinical policy
- Creative project related to nursing

Approved by UAAC: May 2006
Approved by Faculty: May 2006