

**NURS 431 Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing**

**Credit Hours:** 3 HRS

**Scheduled hours per week:**

Lecture: 3 HRS

Lab:

Other: Field experience requiring student to attend an Ethics committee. Estimated time to complete: 1 hour.

**Catalog Course Description:** Focuses on the complexity of moral, legal, and ethical issues in health care.

**Prerequisites:** NURS 311, NURS 320, PHIL 150

**Co-requisites:** None

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

**Human Flourishing: Incorporates the knowledge and skills learned to help patients, families and communities continually progress toward fulfillment of human capacities.**

1. Appraise health care issues through utilization of the processes of critical thinking and interpersonal caring to diverse populations across the life span. (Critical thinking)

**Nursing Judgment: Makes judgments in practice, substantiated by evidence, which synthesizes nursing science and knowledge, from other disciplines in the provision of safe, quality care and the promotion of the health of clients and the community.**

2. Understand the need to actively participate in resolution of ethical/legal dilemmas in the health care setting. (Communication)

**Professional Identify: Express one's identity as a nurse through actions that reflect integrity, a commitment to evidence-based practice, caring, advocacy, and safe quality care for diverse clients and their communities, and willingness to provide leadership in improving care**

3. Categorize moral/ethical/legal/regulatory issues that impact nursing practice and the health care delivery system. (Caring)
4. Integrate knowledge, skills and attitudes to address nursing practice issues that reflects legal and ethical decision making. (Nursing intervention)

**Spirit of Inquiry: Act as a scholar who contributes to the development of the science of nursing practice by identifying questions in need of study, analyzing published research, and using available evidence as a foundation to propose creative, innovative and evidence based solutions to clinical practice problems.**

5. Synthesize professional standards that support moral/ethical/legal principles in response to global health care needs. (Professional Role)

**Topics to be studied:**

Unit I Ethics and Nursing

Unit II	Ethical and Bioethical Issues
Unit III	The US Legal System
Unit IV	Code and Standards Infractions
Unit V	Workplace Issues
Unit VI	The Malpractice Lawsuit and the Trial Process
Unit VII	Intentional and Quasi-Intentional Torts
Unit VIII	Statutory Reporting and Public Duties

**Relationship of course to program outcomes:**

The goals of nursing education for the RN-to-BSN program can be summarized in four broad program outcomes. Nurses must use their skills and knowledge to enhance **human flourishing** for their patients, their communities, and themselves. They should show sound **nursing judgment**, and should continually develop their **professional identity**. Finally, nurses must approach all issues and problems in a **spirit of inquiry**. All essential program-specific core nursing practice competencies and course outcomes are assumed within these four general aims (NLN, p. 9).

<b>Relationship of Course to General Education Learning Outcomes:</b>	
<b>Composition and Rhetoric</b> Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	X
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b> Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to data as a basis for conclusions.	X
<b>Mathematics &amp; Quantitative Skills</b> Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	X
<b>Society, Diversity, &amp; Connections</b> Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	X
<b>Human Inquiry &amp; the Past</b> Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	X
<b>The Arts &amp; Creativity</b> Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	
<b>5/3/2016</b>	

**Special projects or requirements of the course:**

- Weekly Discussion Board Postings
- Various written assignments
- Attendance at an Ethics Committee meeting
- Group assignments/projects
- Quizzes and final exams
- Criminal background checks
- Current Healthcare Provider CPR Certification
- Immunizations as required

Student successful performance on written assignments, discussion board and examinations evaluated by published grading rubrics with a 78% or better will assess achievement of outcomes.

**Additional information:**

This is an asynchronous course conducted entirely online. Students will be required to access Blackboard from their respective off-campus locations. Students are expected to participate in all course activities as assigned by the instructor.

NURS 431 Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing is a nursing course. Failure to pass a second nursing course will result in dismissal from the RN-to-BSN Program at West Virginia University at Parkersburg. (See Student Handbook)

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