

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 – 2 hours.

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

Prerequisites: NURS 311, 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. (Diversity, Patient-Centeredness)

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 patients and the community.

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

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 patients 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. (Holism)

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. (Excellence, Ethics)

Topics to be studied:

Unit I Ethics in 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).

Program Learning Outcomes:	Course SLO
Human Flourishing: Incorporate the knowledge and skills learned to help patients, families, and communities continually progress toward fulfillment of human capacities.	SLO 1
Nursing Judgment: Make judgments in practice, substantiated with 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.	SLO 2
Professional Identity: 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.	SLO 3 and 4
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, or evidence-based solutions to clinical practice problems.	SLO 5

Course SLOs Assessment Methods:

- Discussion board postings
- Various written assignments
- Attendance at an Ethics Committee meeting
- Group assignments/projects
- Continuing education activities
- Quizzes and comprehensive final exam

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.

Special requirements of the course:

- Academic Coaching Session
- Criminal background check
- Required immunizations
- Current Healthcare Provider CPR Certification

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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Date: December 6, 2021