



# Professional Nursing Competencies

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Course Syllabus: RNSG 1118 Summer 2023

*“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”*

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**Office hours vary by individual instructor and will be by appointment unless otherwise stated. Please email instructors for an appointment. You may also contact instructor via Teams.**

***This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments and instructor/student responsibilities.***

**Catalog Course Description:** Development of professional nursing competencies in the care of diverse patients throughout the lifespan. Emphasizes psychomotor skills and clinical reasoning in the performance of nursing procedures related to the concepts of clinical judgment, comfort, elimination, fluid and electrolytes, nutrition, gas exchange, safety, functional ability, immunity, metabolism, mobility, and tissue integrity. Includes health assessment and medication administration. This course lends itself to a concept-based approach.

Lecture/Lab/Clinical: Four hours of lab each week

**Pre-requisites: Admission to the Associate Degree Nursing Program Co-requisites: RNSG 1128, RNSG 1324 and RNSG 1162**

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

The Texas State Board of Nurses (BON) provides differentiated essential competencies (DECs) (2021) to guide nursing education programs in developing a curriculum which prepares graduates to provide

safe, competent, compassionate care. The competencies from the BON show the expected level of performance, integrating knowledge, skills, abilities, and judgment based upon the preparation in the program of study. The differentiation is based upon the level of the nursing education program which the student is enrolled.

The NTCC nursing program director and faculty incorporate the Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) (2021) into the student learning outcomes of each course, based on the level of the nursing educational program. The learning outcomes of this course are based on the essential competencies of graduates of Texas Associate Degree nursing education programs.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course the student will:

- 1. Apply concepts and principles necessary for the performance of professional nursing skills across the lifespan.
- 2. Demonstrate clinical reasoning in the performance of safe professional nursing skills.
- 3. Perform a comprehensive head to toe and a focused health assessment.
- 4. Demonstrate proficiency in safe medication administration.

**Exemplary Educational Objectives:**

N/A

**DEC Objectives:**

- 1. Demonstrate knowledge of the Texas Nurse Practice Act and the Texas Board of Nursing Rules that emphasize safety, as well as all federal, state, and local government and accreditation organization safety requirements and standards.

**Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

A minimum overall grade of “C” is required in all Nursing courses before using that course as a prerequisite for the next course in sequence. In preparation for the State Board examination, the letter grade assigned to all Nursing courses shall be determined as follows:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 78 – 79

F = 77.9 and below

The average of all exam grades, including the final exam, before weighted calculation is performed, must be 78% or above to pass the course. Additionally, all class examinations are considered to be a major part of the course work upon which a major portion of your final grade will be based. If the total average of the module exams is below 80 percent the student will not qualify to sit for the final examination and will fail this course.

**Grades will not be rounded when calculating the average (77.5 – 77.9) is not rounded to 78.**

**Grades are not rounded at end of course. For example, a 79.9 will not be rounded to an 80.** A minimum grade of 78% and a letter grade of “C” or higher is required to receive credit for the nursing course.

The grade earned in this course will be based on the following criteria:

Medication Dosage Calculations.....	Pass/Fail
Head to Toe Assessment.....	70%

Satisfactory Skill Checkoff ... ..	20%
ATI Skills Modules.....	10%
	Total 100%

**Dosage Math Exams:**

Students should enter the Program with a basic knowledge of fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios and proportions. At the beginning of each Level of study, students are required to take a pharmacological math proficiency and medication administration test and successfully pass with a score of 100% prior to going to the clinical site. Related pharmacology information is included in the testing. If a weakness is noted regarding any of these topics, students are required to do remediation on those weak areas. General information about the math tests:

- Passing the test is a patient safety issue.
- Faculty design the tests with a level of difficulty similar in all tests so students would not see one test or one Course as “really” easy and another “really” hard.
- Questions having several parts to solve provide an exercise in critical thinking, which is a requirement of our program.
- Calculators (4-function, basic) may be used during testing and not the calculator on a cell phone.
- The number of opportunities to test prior to clinical for each Level of Course varies dependent on the length of the course, the time at which each Course begins clinical, and other variables determined by Faculty, but no more than three attempts.
- Students may not rework just the “missed question(s), but will be required to take another pharmacological math proficiency and medication administration test.
- After the first unsuccessful test attempt, documentation of appropriate remediation is required prior to taking the next test.
- In order to be successful in taking the test, the student must achieve 100% on the exam prior to going to the hospital or other clinical setting. Passing the test with 100% accuracy is an essential clinical objective that must be accomplished to pass a clinical rotation.
- Principles of pharmacology/safe medication administration will be included (making problems similar to a clinical situation such as reading drug labels, or doctor’s orders including an order, which may be incorrect.)
- Demonstration of math proficiency must be maintained during all clinical experiences.

**Assignments/Assessments**

The student course grade will be calculated using the following criteria:

- Comprehensive head to toe assessment requires a score of at least 80 percent to pass the course (may repeat if below 80 the first time).
- ATI Skills Modules
- NCLEX Tally

**Skills Proficiency:**

- Specific skills and dates to check off will be in the Blackboard course for RNSG 1118

When students come to the campus laboratory for a skill conference or evaluation, they must come prepared with the objectives or Skill Evaluation Tool, and/or supplies. Students must make a 80 for a grade on the skill to be considered passing.

Required forms (skills check-off sheets) must be presented to the instructor prior to beginning the procedure. The instructor is not obligated to do your evaluation if you do not have all of the proper

materials (e.g. classroom attire, check list, name tag, etc.) This is a test of the student's proficiency in a given skill and the instructor will not use this time to teach.

Skill proficiency evaluation grades are given based on the student's performance of skills during scheduled skill evaluations. In order to pass a skill, 80% proficiency must be attained, and critical elements must be met. A student will have three opportunities to pass the skill with a practice and reeducation opportunity for one week or timeline determined by Faculty Team.

If 80% proficiency and critical elements are not met by the third attempt at a skill, a failing grade will be given for the course. If a student must repeat a skill evaluation, only the first evaluation grade will be used in the cumulative course grade calculations.

The student is responsible for making an appointment with an Instructor to perform additional practice on the failed skill but cannot repeat check offs on failed skills within 1 week of 1<sup>st</sup> attempt. Practice times are scheduled and important to learning. Additional practice will be the responsibility of the student, and the student should not present for skills proficiency evaluation until they have sufficiently practiced.

### **Exam Policies:**

Exam blueprints are posted within Blackboard 72 hours prior to the administration of the exam. Posting of exam grades will be within 72 hours of exam completion to allow time for exam review and analysis by faculty. Students may be required to remediate concepts missed following an exam if the exam grade falls below 80. Students will not see exam questions again to protect exam security. Missed exams are made up at the discretion of the instructor and will be an alternate exam that may contain essay questions. Students should alert their instructor if they anticipate they will miss an exam.

### **Late work:**

Late work is accepted with a deduction of 10 points per day for a maximum 3 days. After 3 days have passed, the grade is a zero. Students should have a backup plan for potential computer/printer problems and not wait until the last minute to complete assignments.

### **Required Instructional Materials:**

ADN Nursing Faculty. (2022). *Syllabus and Classroom Learning Folder*. Northeast Texas Community College.

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*Nursing: A Concept-based Approach to Learning* (4rd edition, Volume 1), (2022). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

*Nursing: A Concept-based Approach to Learning* (4rd edition, Volume 2), (2022). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Hinkle, J., Bruner, & Sudarth's (2018). *Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing* (14th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer.

Jarvis, C. (2020). *Physical Examination & Health Assessment Pocket Companion* (8th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

Ogden, S. J. & Fluharty, L. K. (2016). *Calculation of Drug Dosages*. (11th ed.). St. Louis: Mosby Elsevier.

Publication Manual American Psychological Association. (2020). 7<sup>th</sup> Edition

Yoder-Wise, P (2019). *Leading and Managing in Nursing*. (7<sup>th</sup> Edition). St Louis, MO: Elsevier

Yoost, B.L., & Crawford L.R. (2020). *Fundamentals of Nursing, Active Learning for Collaborative Practice*. (2nd ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

### **Recommended Textbooks:**

Hargrove-Huttel, R. A. & Cadenhead Colgrove, K. (2014). *Prioritization Delegation & Management of Care for NCLEX RN Exam*. Philadelphia, PA: F.A. Davis.

Hinkle, J., Bruner, & Sudarth's (2018). *Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing* (14th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer.

Leonard, P.C. (2017). *Quick & Easy Medical Terminology* (8th ed.). St Louis, MO: Elsevier.

Silvestri, L. A. (2017). *Saunders comprehensive review for NCLEX-RN*. (7th ed.). London: W.B. Saunders.

Leeuwen, A.V; Bladh, M.L. (2017). *Davis's Comprehensive Handbook of Laboratory & Diagnostic Tests with Nursing Implications*. (7th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: F.A. Davis Company.

### **Optional Instructional Materials:**

Karch, A.M. (2017). *Focus on Nursing Pharmacology* (7th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer.

Marquis, B., & Huston, C. (2018).

*Leadership Roles and Management Functions in Nursing in Nursing* (9th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer.

Videbeck, L. (2017). *Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing* (7th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer.

### **Recommended Reading(s):**

- NCSBN
- Texas Board of Nursing website
- Current Nursing Dictionary/Encyclopedia
- Texas Nurse Practice Act
- *Healthy People 2020*
- American Nurse Association Code of Ethics

**Minimum Technology Requirements:** Students are required to have access to a working laptop computer with a microphone, webcam, and at least 2 GB free space for use during class sessions and for online testing. Tablets and “Chromebook” computers are not compatible with testing platforms and are not recommended. Students are also required to have access to internet service and not rely on “hot spot” internet as this is also not compatible with testing platforms used.

**Required Computer Literacy Skills:** Students should be familiar with the Office Suite including Microsoft Word. Students should be familiar with how to upload documents, how to send and receive email, and navigate the internet.

**Course Structure and Overview:** This course covers selected health care as well as professional nursing concepts and exemplars.

**Communications:** NTCC email is the official method of communication between faculty and students in the nursing program. Students should check email at least once every day. Emails sent to course faculty can expect to be responded to within 24 hours Monday-Friday (Saturday for nights and weekend cohorts). Emails sent on the weekend will be answered the next business day. Faculty and students may communicate via Zoom or Microsoft Teams chat when that technology is in use or during official office hours. Course announcements should also be checked on Blackboard daily and any information posted, read thoroughly. At all times, communication should remain professional and respectful with faculty and between students. Refer to the nursing handbook for further communication policy and procedure.

**Student Responsibilities/Expectations:**

Students, when in class, are expected to be fully engaged in participation and learning. Cell phone usage is limited to class breaks. When in the Zoom or Microsoft Teams online class environment, cameras are to be “on” unless the instructor specifies to turn cameras “off”. Class attendance is mandatory and absence from class can have adverse consequences on successful progression within the program. A student who has missed a class, must make up class time. A student who misses 24 hours of class time will be placed on probation.

**NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:**

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

**ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children’s educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered “eligible students.” In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child’s college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as “directory

information” may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student’s name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous educational institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

### **Other Course Policies:**

Students, when in class, are expected to be fully engaged in participation and learning. Cell phone usage is limited to class breaks. Class attendance is mandatory and absence from class can have adverse consequences on successful progression within the program. A student, who has missed a class, must make up class time. A student who misses 24 hours of class time will be placed on probation. A student may not miss more than one clinical day during the semester or will fail clinical. Clinical includes

simulation days. A makeup clinical assignment will be assigned. Students are expected to utilize the chain-of-command when a grievance occurs, first communicating with their course instructor. If a resolution is not found, the student would then progress to communication with the director of nursing. If a resolution is still not obtained, the Dean of Health Sciences would be the next appropriate step. *The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.*

### **Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phones/smart watches/tablets/computers are prohibited from all clinical sites. This means no student may bring them to a clinical site. Cell phones must remain in your vehicle or home. Cell phones/smart watches/tablets/computers cannot be in lab coats or other clinical materials and supplies. You can contact instructors by calling from a clinical site phone. Your instructors phone number is on the bottom of your clinical paperwork. Having a cell phones/smart watches/tablets/computer during clinical can result in dismissal from the program.

### **Volunteer Hours:**

Nursing is a vocation grounded in service to others and to society. Nursing students are expected to “give back” to the community in the form of specified volunteer hours over the course of the Spring semester with the focus on the geriatric population.

### **STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM:**

Please sign acknowledgement of all policies listed below and submit to Blackboard under student acknowledgement form by the due date.

- A. I acknowledge that I have received and understand the content of the course syllabus.
- B. I agree to communicate with course faculty through the Blackboard page/NTCC email established for the Nursing Course.
- C. I will abide by the Academic Integrity Policy as published in the Catalog.
- D. I agree to have my grades posted via Blackboard in a secure format.
- E. I acknowledge that I have read and understand the content of the current Northeast Texas Community College Nursing Department Student Handbook.
- F. Students will maintain confidentiality of client information and respect the client's right to privacy. It is illegal according to the provisions of the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 and unethical to reveal client identity or information without the client's permission. All students must have a signed Responsibility and Confidentiality Statement on file before beginning clinical. Written assignments will have no identifying client information which will compromise the right to patient confidentiality as stated in HIPAA legislation. Information will only be shared with nursing faculty. Discussions of client situations will be conducted in private or clinical conferences for the express purpose of student learning. NO DISCUSSIONS about any clients may take place in hallways, elevators, cafeterias, or outside the agency setting, including with your own family. Accessing confidential client information without the legal or ethical foundation for doing so may result in disciplinary actions. A breach of this policy may result in dismissal from the program and may result in the denial of readmission. A breach of this policy may also result in imprisonment and fines under HIPAA regulations.
- G. I will abide by the cell phone/electronic device policy as published in the Syllabus, Catalog and the Northeast Texas Community College Nursing Student Handbook.
- H. I have read and understand the Essential Functions and agree to notify the Nursing Department of any changes in my status.
- I. I understand that the catalog for Northeast Texas Community College is available online with all pertinent policies.
- J. I have read and agree with the exam/assignment review and question/grade challenge process.
- K. I have read and agree to abide by the Northeast Texas Community College Nursing Department Simulation Center Rules and Procedures.
- L. I have read and agree to comply with the clinical attendance and make-up policy. I understand this policy is effective for clinical/preceptor/clinical lab/ and simulation experiences.



- M. I have read and understand the ATI requirement and remediation policy for this course.
- N. I have read and understand the Student Success Plan as indicated in the syllabus.
- O. I have read and agree to abide by the Clinical Professional Behaviors.
- P. I understand that all clinical requirements including required immunizations, current AHA CPR and background check must be completed before clearance is granted to attend clinical.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_