Southern New Hampshire University

Undergraduate Course Syllabus

NUR 480: Policy, Law, Ethics, and Regulation

Center: Online

Credits: 6

Course Prerequisites

Must be enrolled in Nursing program

Course Description

Students in this course examine the role of health care policy and legal, regulatory, and quality control in ethical decision making in professional, healthcare practice. Students explore concepts and principles of health care policy, legal control, ethical conduct, and regulatory environments and their application to the healthcare environment through the lens of the professional discipline. Students evaluate the impact of health care policy and multicultural, socioeconomic, political, legal, and regulatory factors on health care access disparities and examine ways to articulate the needs of individuals, communities, and vulnerable populations to consumers and appropriate officials. Students also focus on the importance of cultural competence and ethical decision-making within healthcare delivery systems.

AACN Essentials

This course meets the following AACN Essentials of Master's Education for Professional Nursing Practice:

Essential I: Liberal Education for Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice

Essential II: Basic Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Care and Patient Safety

Essential III: Scholarship for Evidence-Based Practice

Essential IV: Information Management and Application of Patient Care Technology

Essential V: Healthcare Policy, Finance, and Regulatory Environments

Essential VI: Interprofessional Communication and Collaboration for Improving Patient Health Outcomes

Essential VII: Clinical Prevention and Population Health

Essential VIII: Professionalism and Professional Values

Essential IX: Baccalaureate Generalist Nursing Practice

Course Outcomes

- Define the major ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice
- Compare and contrast several ethical theories, conceptual frameworks, and decision-making models
- Analyze the provisions of the ANA Code of Ethics in relation to own clinical practice settings and the nursing profession
- Utilize effective strategies to resolve ethical dilemmas resulting from conflicts that may arise when values of patients and their families differ from those of employees and physicians

- Describe legal risks, particularly malpractice issues, how a bill becomes a law, and the legislative process
- Describe the political context of health care, key concepts in health policy, and the nurse's role in shaping, implementing, and evaluating health policy
- Integrate relevant ethical, legal, legislative, and economic implications of health policies
- Integrate concepts of ethical reasoning, policy formation, and legal processes

Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through SNHU's online bookstore, [MBS Direct](#), rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the Help Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5

Burkhardt, M. A., & Nathaniel, A. K. (2014). *Ethics and issues in contemporary nursing* (4th ed.). New York, NY: Thomson Learning (Delmar). ISBN: 978-1-133-12916-5

Suggested Texts

Porche, D. J. (2012). *Health policy: Application for nurses and other healthcare professionals*. Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett. ISBN: 978-0-7637-8313-6

Teitelbaum, J., & Wilensky, S. (2017). *Essentials of health policy and law* (3rd ed.). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett. ISBN: 978-1-284-08754-3

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place in Blackboard on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions forum in Blackboard so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	5	4	20
Reflection Journals	3	3	9
Values Clarification and Analysis	1	13	13
ANA Code of Ethics Paper	1	13	13
Health Policy Memo	1	15	15
Capstone Paper	1	30	30
		Total Course Points:	100

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Undergraduate

	Total Points.	100		
Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points	Points Equivalent	
			Lower	Upper
A	93-100	4.00	93	100
A-	90-92	3.67	90	92
B+	87-89	3.33	87	89
B	83-86	3.00	83	86
B-	80-82	2.67	80	82
C+	77-79	2.33	77	79
C	73-76	2.00	73	76
F	0-72	0.00	0	72
I	Incomplete			
IF	Incomplete/Failure			
W	Withdrawn			

*Please refer to the policy page for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Course Information area in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics folder.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

The Learning Modules area in Blackboard contains one module folder for each week of the course. All reading and assignment information can be found in the folders. Assignments and discussion board posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module in Blackboard.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Introduction to the Capstone Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2013): *Ethics and Issues in Contemporary Nursing,* Chapter 1 1-1 Discussion: Getting Started 1-2 Discussion: Capstone Ideas 1-3 Review
2	Ethical Theory and Principles Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2013): *Ethics and Issues in Contemporary Nursing,* Chapters 2 and 3 2-1 Discussion: Ethical Theories in Practice 2-2 Assignment: Capstone Check-In 2-3 Review: Values Clarification and Analysis
3	Moral Development Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2013): *Ethics and Issues in Contemporary Nursing,* Chapters 4, 5, and 18 3-1 Paper: Values Clarification and Analysis 3-2 Non-Graded Assignment: Capstone Update
4	Analysis of Ethical Principles Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2013): *Ethics and Issues in Contemporary Nursing,* Chapters 6, 10, and 11 4-1 Discussion: Moral Distress 4-2 Review: Codes of Ethics
5	Moral Decision-Making Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2013): *Ethics and Issues in Contemporary Nursing,* Chapters 7, 16, and 17 5-1 Paper: Code of Ethics 5-2 Reflection Journal: Personal Ethics and Ethical Decision-Making
6	Integrated Ethics Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2013): *Ethics and Issues in Contemporary Nursing,* Chapter 9 6-1 Discussion: Ethical Issues With Specific Patient Care Issues 6-2 Non-Graded Assignment: Capstone Update
7	Healthcare Law Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2013): *Ethics and Issues in Contemporary Nursing,* Chapters 8 and 12 7-1 Discussion: Ethical/Legal 7-2 Tutorial: Legal Tutorial

8	Healthcare Policy
	Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2013): *Ethics and Issues in Contemporary Nursing,* Chapters 14, 19, and 20
	8-1 Assignment: Health Policy Memo
	8-2 Non-Graded Assignment: Capstone Update
9	Health Policy Implementation
	Burkhardt & Nathaniel (2013): *Ethics and Issues in Contemporary Nursing,* Chapters 13 and 15
	9-1 Assignment: Capstone Paper Submission
	9-2 Reflection Journal: Nursing Advocate in Policy and Regulations
10	Regulation, Compliance, and Accreditation
	10-1 Reflection Journal: Final Thoughts About Policies, The Law, Ethics, and Regulation

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion to Blackboard during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a posting to the graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically withdrawn from the course for non-participation. Review the full attendance policy.

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the full late assignment policy.

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Student Handbook

Review the student handbook.

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. The university prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities.

As soon as you become aware of a disability, we encourage you to contact the Online Accessibility Center (OAC) to discuss accommodations for which you may be qualified. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student and the OAC. Note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations are not provided until an accommodation letter has been processed.

Contact Information:

Online Accessibility Center
Phone: 866-305-9430
Email: oac@snhu.edu

For questions concerning support services, documentation guidelines, or general disability issues, visit the Online Accessibility Center website.

If you feel you have been denied appropriate disability-related accommodations, including appropriate auxiliary aids and services, you may file a grievance as described in the ADA/504 Grievance Policy found on the Disability Services webpage.

Academic Honesty Policy
Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the full academic honesty policy.

Copyright Policy
Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the full copyright policy.

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Withdrawal Policy
Review the full withdrawal policy.

Southern New Hampshire University Policies
More information about SNHU policies can be found on the policy page.

Assessment Calibration and Student Work Samples
For the purpose of continuous improvement of our educational training, Southern New Hampshire University's College of Online and Continuing Education may, on occasion, utilize anonymous student work samples for internal professional development and staff training. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your advisor. If you would like to withdraw permission for use of your work, please contact the assessment calibration administrator at assessmentcalibration@snhu.edu. See this document for more information.