

B.S.N. NURSING



CHRISTINE E. LYNN COLLEGE OF NURSING

ACADEMIC LEARNING COMPACT

In all required nursing practice courses, students are evaluated by faculty via the Collaborative Nursing Practice Evaluation Instrument. This evaluation instrument is available to view at <http://nursing.fau.edu/newnursingsite/handbook/forms/practiceevaluation.html>. The instrument describes in detail the competencies of caring that are the foundation for the nursing program. These competencies are summarized below:

CARING COMPETENCIES

- Compassion:** The quality that fosters trusting relationships.
- Competence:** The state of having knowledge, judgment, skills, energy, experience and motivation required to respond adequately to the demands of one's professional responsibilities.
- Confidence:** A way of living born out of an awareness of one's relationship to all living creatures.
- Conscience:** The morally sensitive self attuned to values and is integral to personhood.
- Commitment:** A complex affective response characterized by a convergence between one's desires and one's obligations and by a deliberate choice to act in accordance with them.
- Comportment:** Bearing or demeanor expressed through the dress, language and behavior of nurses while caring for patients.

This Academic Learning Compact highlights the 12 Critical Behaviors that are also included in the evaluation instrument. Students will demonstrate the following critical behaviors throughout their nursing practice courses:

CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills, Practical Skills)

- Performs holistic and comprehensive assessments on patients.
- Identifies and anticipates priorities of care and take appropriate action.
- Demonstrates accountability for own learning and actions.
- Implements nursing responses that are safe, individualized and appropriate for the patient.
- Demonstrates an ability to understand calls and responses, including multiple ways of knowing and critical thinking in analyzing and interpreting calls and responses.

COMMUNICATION (Team/Collaborative Communication)

- Demonstrates authentic presence and caring behaviors that nurture wholeness (active listening and responding to "that which matters to those nursed").
- Collaborates with other health care providers in designing a plan of care and meeting the patient's calls for nursing.
- Demonstrates preparation, energy integration of multiple ways of knowing to hear and respond to patient's calls and nursing responsibilities during the nursing practice experience.

COMMUNICATION (Written Communication)

- Writes a story illustrating the nursing situation, the invitation to care and the mutuality of persons in the caring experience. Responds to critical questions and presents work as a professional paper or presentation.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Technical Skills)

- Records all significant data, nursing actions and patient responses in an accurate, concise and timely manner.
- Administers medications safely.
- Maintains a safe environment, including aseptic technique, infection control, fall precautions and any unit specific safety policies.

Students will be observed and evaluated by faculty on each of these 12 Critical Behaviors. Consistent demonstration of these behaviors is essential to successful completion of any nursing practice course. The student must earn a YES response for each of the 12 criteria to pass each nursing practice course. Critical criteria must be consistently demonstrated over the duration of the nursing practice course.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Declarative Knowledge) and CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills)

Students will demonstrate the following competencies necessary to perform safely and effectively as a registered nurse: A critical understanding of pathophysiology and disease processes, technical skills and procedures, medications, diagnostic tests, the nursing process (assessment, analysis, planning, implementation, evaluation), awareness of client needs (safety/effectiveness, physiological and psychosocial integrity, health promotion), knowledge of specialty areas in nursing (medical-surgical, pediatric, maternity, mental health, community, gerontology), and professional nursing leadership skills.

Approximately three months prior to graduation, all seniors will take the Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) examination. This test is a valid predictor of performance on the National Licensing Examination (NCLEX). Students must achieve a HESI score of 850 or better to graduate. Students who do not receive a passing score are provided with advising and a remediation plan and the opportunity to re-take the exam; they will not graduate until their score is 850 or better.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Declarative Knowledge, Research Skills), COMMUNICATION (Written Communication), and CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills)

Students will demonstrate that they have acquired discipline-specific research skills including knowledge of relationships between theory development, research and the practice of nursing, critical analysis of the conceptual and technical aspects of nursing research, and the ability to produce a substantive written research paper in appropriate APA format.

In NUR 4165 (Nursing Research), students complete a practice-focused inquiry paper.

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