

Virginia Western Community College

PNE 181

Clinical Experience I

Prerequisites

Acceptance into Practical Nursing program. Satisfactory completion of first and second semester courses including PNE 141, PNE 142, PNE 155 if required, and PNE 110.

Course Description

Provides guided nursing experiences in the hospital setting. Practices skills and applies principles of nursing in basic areas. Includes supervision in administration of medicines. Encourages students to develop basic skills in analyzing patient needs and making nursing decisions. This is a 5 credit course.

Semester Credits: # 5 CR; Lecture Hours: #0 Lab/Clinical/Internship Hours: #15/wk

Required Materials

Textbook:

Donnelly-Moreno, L. (2021). *Fundamental Nursing Skills and Concepts* (12th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins. ISBN 978-1-4963-2762-8

Coursepoint for Timby Fundamentals of Nursing (12th ed)

Lynn (2020), Lippincott Skills for Nursing Education, ISBN: 978-1-975-18238-0

Giddens, J. (2021), *Concepts for Nursing Practice* (3rd ed). St. Louis, Missouri, Elsevier, Inc. ISBN 978-0-323-58193-6

Other Required Materials:

Skills Lab Kit (in tote bag) which must be purchased at the VWCC campus book store

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. **Safety:** Perform and demonstrate select basic skills in a safe manner according to guidelines to meet patient needs in the hospital, mental health, and long-term care settings.
2. **Critical thinking:** Apply critical thinking skills to plan for meeting the basic human needs of a patient.
3. **Informatics:** Demonstrate appropriate communication with patients, families, and the interdisciplinary healthcare team in terms of verbal communication and communication via electronic documentation.

4. **Culture:** Demonstrate practice within the profession's ethical and legal framework while upholding an understanding of patients' culture, ethnicity, and spirituality.
5. **Patient centered care:** Apply theory in managing patient centered care of the individual in clinical performance.
6. **Evidence-based practice:** Incorporate the best current evidence to provide practice for minor alterations in safety, comfort, nutrition, and elimination using the nursing process.
7. **Teamwork:** Participant in a working healthcare team using appropriate forms of communication.

Topical Description

Course Outline

Attendance and Clinical Policies

It is the student's responsibility to review and follow all the policies and guidelines as outlined in the VWCC Practical Nursing Program Student Handbook.

1. Each student will attend clinical approximately 15 hours per week. Clinical attendance is mandatory in order to meet the course objectives and pass the course.
2. Each student will participate in a pediatric, maternity, community health, and medical-surgical nursing experience during the semester.
3. A maximum of two clinical absences per semester will be allowed for personal illness, family illness, quarantine, or death in the *immediate family*.
4. Any absence from clinical experience must be made up; failure to do so may result in a failing grade for the course. Only a documented, excused absence may be made up. An excused absence is an absence in which there is verifiable documentation. Examples of verifiable documentation include a physician's note, a court appearance summons, jury duty summons, or an obituary notice. Clinical make-up time is scheduled at the sole discretion of the instructor and must be completed by the last day of the semester in which the time was missed.
5. The Virginia Board of Nursing (VBON) requires that students complete a minimum number of clinical hours. The VWCC Practical Nursing Program contains more than the minimal number of clinical hours required by the VBON. All of the program hours must be completed.
6. If absent, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the scheduled shift. Failure to follow this requirement will result in a grade of "0" for that day for the first occurrence. A second occurrence of failure to notify will result in dismissal from the program and a grade of "F" will be recorded for the course. No exceptions will be made except in the case of documented personal or family emergency, or other dire circumstance subject to verification.
7. Tardiness is considered unprofessional behavior and the student will be sent home and this will count as an absence. A tardy is assessed as soon as the instructor has started pre-conference.
8. Make-up/Late-work policy: This is addressed under the attendance section. Late-work due date will be discussed by each instructor during clinical orientation.

Excessive absenteeism is defined as a maximum of three (3) classes or two (2) lab days per semester. Excessive absenteeism will result in dismissal from the Practical Nursing Program.

Delayed Opening

If the college is on a late schedule due to inclement weather, **clinical is cancelled**. In the absence of any announcement, clinical will be held at the scheduled time.

Cancellation

When you see/hear an announcement that "Virginia Western Community College is closed", or "Virginia Western Community College classes are cancelled", **clinical is cancelled**.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is a serious event that may result in an academic penalty. Misconduct includes cheating, fabrication, facilitation of cheating, unauthorized collaboration, interference, plagiarism, and violation of course rules. Penalties for academic honesty violations will follow the VWCC Practical Nursing Honor Code Policy, which states:

"I will not participate in any form of academic dishonesty. I understand that academic dishonesty includes verbal or written acts of plagiarism, cheating, stealing, or deception. I also understand that as a member of the Practical Nursing Program and VWCC community that it is my responsibility to report any and all acts of academic dishonesty by others or myself. If called to a hearing, I will report and provide the required information to the best of my ability. I understand that participation in or failure to report academic dishonesty of which I have knowledge will result in my dismissal from the Practical Nursing Program."

The Practical Nursing Program's Academic Misconduct policy exceeds that of Virginia Western Community College, which may be viewed at:

<http://www.viriniawestern.edu/services/handbook/>

Accommodations for Disabilities:

"Students with diagnosed/documented or other disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations in the classroom in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is the responsibility of the student to meet with the faculty member and bring the appropriate forms from Student Support Services to request accommodations: it is recommended that this meeting take place as early as possible in the semester to facilitate an optimal learning environment. Please contact the instructor after class or during office hours during the first week of the semester to discuss your needs."

Method of Evaluation

Clinical Evaluation:

Clinical Evaluation Tool

1. The Clinical Evaluation Tool will be used to document the student's progress in meeting the course objectives, to provide rationale for the assigned grade, and to identify student's strengths and areas needing improvement.
2. Success in meeting the course objectives is determined by the student's performance

- in the clinical setting and completion of written assignments.
- The student must earn an average rating of “3” (C) or better for each of the course objectives and for written assignments over the total clinical grading period to pass the course. If the student fails to earn an average rating of “3” (C) or better for each of the course objectives and for written assignments, a final course grade of “F” will be assigned.
 - If the student earns an average rating of “3” (C) or better for each of the course objectives and for written assignments, the final grade will be calculated based on an average of the weekly grades for all course objectives and written assignments.

Clinical Remediation

- A Clinical Remediation Plan will be developed by the instructor and reviewed with the student at any time the student fails to demonstrate passing clinical behavior(s). The student is responsible for making the necessary improvements as indicated in the plan.
- The instructor and student will meet on a weekly basis to evaluate progress until the plan is resolved. A Clinical Remediation Plan that is not resolved by the end of the semester in which it was implemented may result in a grade of “F” for the course. Instructors will meet with each student individually at the end of each clinical rotation to review the student’s progress in meeting the course objectives. Additional conferences may be held at the discretion of the instructor.

Final Grading Scale (spring 2018)

| Final Grade Percentage | Letter Grade | Rating for Course Objectives and Written Assignments |
|------------------------|--------------|--|
| 91-100 | A | 5 - Exceeds Expectations |
| 82-90.99 | B | 4 - Highly Skilled |
| 75-81.99 | C | 3 - Average |
| 65-74.99 | D | 2 - Minimally Competent |
| Below 65 | F | 1 - Unacceptable/Unsafe |

1. Evaluative Criteria: *Clinical Performance*

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------|--|
| 91-100 (A) | Exceeds Expectations | Performance or behavior far exceeds expected level. |
| 82-90.99 (B) | Highly Skilled | Performance or behavior is highly skilled ; Shows a thorough knowledge base. |
| 75-81.00 (C) | Average | Performance or behavior is average ; Shows an average knowledge base. |
| 65-74.99 (D) | Minimally Competent | Performance or behavior is safe, but minimally competent ; Weak knowledge base. |
| Below 65 (F) | Unacceptable /Unsafe | Performance, behavior, or lack of knowledge is unacceptable and/or poses a serious threat to client, the profession, the facility, or the program. |

2. Evaluative Criteria: *Written Assignments*

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|
| 91-100 (A) | Exceeds Expectations | Outstanding effort and thought are obvious. All required areas are addressed in a complete and thorough manner. Information is accurate and paperwork is professional in appearance. Assignment is turned in on time. |
| 82-90.99 (B) | Highly Skilled | Overall, written work is complete and accurate. All required areas are addressed. Paperwork is professional in appearance. Assignment is turned in on time. |
| 75-81.00 (C) | Average | Most of the assigned areas are addressed, but there are obvious gaps. Information is missing and/or not accurate. Paperwork is acceptable but improvement needed. Assignment is turned in on time. |
| 65-74.99 (D) | Minimally Competent | Large or important pieces of information are missing and/or not accurate. Little effort or thought is evident. Paperwork is non-professional. Assignment is turned in on time. |
| Below 65 (F) | Unacceptable/ Unsafe | Most of the required information has not been completed and/or information is inaccurate and/or assignment is turned in late. |

Written Assignment Guidelines

- Weekly written assignments include completion of:
 - Patient Database
 - Medication Sheet/Cards
 - Nursing Care Plan
- If more than one patient is assigned, the above paperwork will be required for the first patient and a Patient Database will be required for any additional patient(s).
- The number of Medication Sheets/Cards to be completed will be assigned by the clinical instructor. Students are to have a basic pharmacological knowledge of all medications ordered for their patients. Students may be quizzed on their assigned patient's medications by their clinical instructor.
- In addition, the following documents are to be updated and submitted each week:
 - Clinical Nursing Skills Checklist
 - Record of Clinical Hours
- Weekly clinical paperwork is to be submitted **in a pocket folder** on the day and time specified by the clinical instructor.
- The instructor may refuse to accept any clinical paperwork that is submitted late, incomplete, or illegible. The student will be given a grade of "I" for the written assignment and be placed on a Clinical Remediation Plan until the paperwork is submitted to satisfaction.

Clinical Attire/Supplies

Each student is expected to strictly adhere to the dress and grooming guidelines listed in the VWCC Practical Nursing Student Handbook and to bring required supplies to clinical each day. Students who do not comply with the dress code or who are unprepared for clinical will be asked to leave the unit and will be given a grade of "0" for the day and will count as an absence.

Clinical Orientation

Students must complete all required clinical facility orientation and training prior to the clinical experience. Information about these requirements will be provided to students by the faculty. Orientation and training requirements vary with the clinical facility. The scheduled facility orientation is the only opportunity for the student to be oriented to the facility and to attend clinical at that site. Failure to complete facility requirements and/or attend mandatory orientations will result in the student being withdrawn from the course.

Clinical Safety

- A. Each student will receive guidelines for standard precautions via classroom and clinical instruction. Each student is expected to review these guidelines to maintain weekly clinical safety and seek faculty if questions arise.
- B. Students must perform selected skills satisfactorily in the on-campus lab or correctly verbalize procedure to instructor before they perform the skill in the clinical setting.
- C. Any student whose ability to function or to practice safely is questioned will not be allowed on the clinical unit. The clinical instructor has the right and obligation to determine the student's ability to practice safely.
- D. Nursing management at the clinical facility may exclude a student from a clinical unit if they deem the student's behavior unsafe.

1. Medication Errors and Other Incidents Affecting Patient Safety

All medication errors (actual or potential) and all incidents that potentially jeopardize patient safety will require completion of the VWCC Practical Nursing Event Report (pink sheet). This report will be filled out by the **student and clinical instructor**, and will be given to the Program Head within 24 hours. This report will become part of the student file.

2. Cell Phones and Other Electronic Communication Devices

- A. The use of cell phones/electronic communication devices **for any purpose** in the clinical setting is prohibited. Examples of "any purpose" include, but are not limited to, making or receiving phone calls, text messaging, receiving or sending e-mails, voice-recording, viewing or recording videos, taking photographs, and browsing the Web.
- B. **Cell phones and other electronic communication devices must be turned off and stored during clinical hours and are not to be kept on person.** It is not recommended that cell phones/electronic communication devices be stored in your coats, backpacks, etc., because that increases the risk of theft. The safest storage of cell phones/electronic communication devices is locked in your vehicle during clinical.
- C. Permission to carry cell phones on vibrate for emergency contacts is up to the discretion of the instructor. Any student wishing to request permission must discuss their situation with their instructor prior to clinical.
- D. Any student violating the Cell Phones and Other Communication Devices policy in clinical (including pre- and post-conferences) will be asked to leave the facility and will be given a grade of "0" for the day and will count as an absence. Upon the second offence the student will be dismissed from the program.