

## 7.1 Academic Course Descriptions

### **101 Anatomy and Physiology (includes 16 hours of Medical Terminology)**

This course provides students with a comprehensive overview of the morphology and functional anatomy of the human body. The course incorporates normal structure and function of the human body and provides an insight to the implications of disruption of normal structure and function. Emphasis is on interrelationships among systems and regulation of physiological functions involved in maintaining homeostasis. Medical terminology relative to the system studied will also be included.

### **102 Fundamentals of Nursing**

This course focuses on the purpose, role and responsibilities of the practical nurse and builds the foundation for future clinical practice. The student gains an understanding of the underlying principles of patient care including application of comfort measures, assistance with daily living activities, environmental concerns, positioning and transporting, asepsis and sterile technique, and medication administration. The nursing process is introduced with particular emphasis on the assessment and intervention components as a foundation for the development of critical thinking. Concepts related to nursing fundamentals, safety, communication, informatics, and evidenced based practice are integrated throughout this course. The campus laboratory and clinical settings will afford practical experience in application of the principles and skills taught in the theory portion of this class.

### **103 Human Growth and Development**

This course offers the student a basic knowledge of expected physical, psychological and social growth and development throughout the human life cycle. It increases self-understanding and helps the student to become aware of the deviations from the expected patterns of growth and development brought about by illness. The student becomes aware and accepting of culturally diverse groups, understanding the norms and conflicts that dictate their everyday life. At each stage of life, illness or injury modifies nursing care for the patient. The student realizes that there are a variety of community settings and recourses available to meet the needs of those patients and their families. Within this course, effective communication skills are utilized.

### **104 Nutrition**

This course will provide the learner with an introduction to the concepts of diet and nutrition and its affect on the human body over the lifespan. It is designed to provide the student with nutritional information to promote health, prevent disease and manage clients' illness as it is related to diet and diet therapy. The processes of digestion, absorption and metabolism are discussed and the utilization of nutrients explored. A general overview of diet related illness and disease is discussed.

### **106 Pharmacology**

The student will focus on the safe use, pharmacological principles, indications and nursing implications related to drug therapy required for nurses when caring for patients. The course will stress the general characteristics of selected medications and will include pharmacokinetics, side effects, adverse effects, contraindications, administration, nursing implications across the lifespan, and patient education. The student will accurately calculate drug doses and state appropriate nursing interventions to achieve the desired goals of medication therapy.

### **107 Vocational Trends 1**

Vocational Trends I introduces the novice nursing student to the roles and responsibilities of the practical nurse. Nursing theories are explored with their relevance to current nursing practice. The history of nursing is explored as well as the changes in the United States health care system as they relate to the practical nurse. The ethical and legal perspectives of nursing as they relate to specific problems encountered in the role of a practical nurse are addressed. Communication techniques, safe nursing practice and medication knowledge as it relates to legal and safe medication administration will be taught. Nursing organizations, career mobility and opportunities in the nursing field are investigated.

### **202 Mental Health Concepts**

Social and emotional behavioral concepts are recognized as an essential part of the Nursing Process. The student becomes aware of the emotions and feelings of patients as they adjust to new situations, cope with personal problems and develop insight into their strengths and weakness. The student learns there is an emotional component inherent in all illnesses and all patients have emotional needs that must be met. Different personality theories and disorders are explored as well as the effect of substance abuse on the client and his family. The integrity of the individual as a biopsychosocial being is stressed. Students are expected to use clinical judgement as they apply concepts to care of a client in the geriatric setting.

### **203 Maternity and Pediatric Nursing**

This course addresses the unique concepts in maternal-child and pediatric nursing. This course will help prepare the student to meet the developmental, biological and psychosocial health and illness needs of the child-bearing family. The educational and anticipatory guidance needs of the child-bearing family will be integrated throughout the theory and clinical components in the course to enable the family to maintain or restore an optimal state of health and well-being. The clinical component provides guided clinical experiences that allow students to demonstrate caring and clinical competencies in the application of the nursing process during a school nursing pediatric experience and simulated maternity experiences.

### **204 Fundamentals of Nursing Clinical II**

This clinical course expands the nursing student's role in applying skills in the Fundamental clinical setting. Medication administration utilizing simulation in the laboratory and clinical setting will be the primary focus. Students will utilize communication and assessment skills by caring for individuals with multiple co-morbidities and altered health status. The development of critical thinking through interactions, assessment and interventions will be emphasized.

### **301 Vocational Trends II**

The Vocational Trends II course discusses professional development that enables the student to practice in the health care setting. This course discusses the MA Nurse Practice Act, leadership/management styles, and types of nursing models one may apply in the professional employment setting. Vocational Trends II prepares the individual to grow from a nursing student status to a practicing Licensed Practical Nurse. Students will learn to research job opportunities, write a cover letter and resume, apply for a job and apply to take NCLEX-PN. Students will explore opportunities in furthering their education as a RN.

### **302 Medical Surgical Nursing**

This course in Medical-Surgical Nursing emphasizes the role of the student Practical Nurse when caring for adult clients with specific health related self-care deficits in an acute medical-surgical facility, transitional care unit or rehabilitation center. Emphasis is placed on incorporating critical thinking in utilizing the Nursing Process to set up nursing care plans and assist in discharge planning. The course is subdivided into alterations in functioning in all of the major biological systems encompassing the nutritional, psychosocial and cultural aspects. Pharmacological essentials are integrated into each system in the care of selected clients. The principles of health care teaching with selected clients and their families is integrated throughout the course. Ethical and legal considerations specific to care of the adult client and family are discussed. The importance of utilizing safety procedures in all aspects of nursing care is stressed.

### **303 Geriatric Nursing**

This course focuses on the nursing care skills of the older adult. Emphasis is placed on providing culturally sensitive care, and respecting the privacy and dignity of the individual. Recognition of the psychological and social implications as they relate to alterations in function is also stressed. Application of communication techniques and the principles of teaching/learning is explored. Age-related changes in nutritional requirements are integrated. Nursing responsibilities for pharmacological agents are identified as they apply to the older adult. The nursing process is utilized in prioritizing interventions used in caring for the older adult; the role of the practical nurse in preventative and rehabilitation nursing in geriatrics is

also stressed. The resources available to assist in the care of elderly in the community are explored; the uniqueness of the older adult and their right to the finest and most sensitive nursing care is emphasized. A Kaplan-PN review is offered to enhance NCLEX-PN preparation.