

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith 5210 Grand Avenue  
P. O. Box 3649  
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649 479-788-7000

**General Syllabus  
NURS 3164 Health Assessment**

Credit Hours: 4

Lecture Hours: 2.5

Laboratory Hours: 4.5

Prerequisites: Admission to BSN program, or consent of the Executive Director of the School of Nursing or Dean of the College of Health Sciences, and (BSN-Accelerated only) HLTH 3103 Pathophysiology

Prerequisites or Corequisites (BSN only): HLTH 3103 Pathophysiology and NURS 2103 Introduction to Professional Nursing

Corequisites (BSN-Accelerated only): NURS 2103 Introduction to Professional Nursing, NURS 3113 Nursing Skills, and NURS 3227 Foundations of Nursing Care

Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

Focuses on the development of skills necessary for assessing the physical health status of both adult and pediatric clients. Skills of inspection, auscultation, palpation, and percussion are emphasized. Students apply classroom content in clinical and simulated laboratory situations. Course meets the UAFS BSN program's requirement for health assessment.

**B. Additional Information**

This in-depth course focuses on client interviewing techniques, obtaining complete client health histories, and assessment of clients across the life span. It is designed to assist students in learning to communicate with clients, to obtain narrative assessments, and to perform physical examinations.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Differentiate normal and abnormal health assessment findings using **critical thinking** skills.

2. Correlate pathological findings with relevant disease processes using pertinent **research**.
3. **Communicate** effectively while conducting health histories and assessments.
4. Portray **leadership and management** abilities in the performance of holistic health assessments.
5. Foster strategies for **health promotion**, risk reduction, and disease prevention.
6. Incorporate **professional nursing standards** when conducting health assessments.

## **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

### **Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will use critical thinking skills to identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis.

### **Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will communicate proficiently.

### **Ethical Decision Making**

Students will model ethical-decision making processes.

### **Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

## **III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Evidence-Based Assessment
- B. Cultural Competence: Cultural Care
- C. The Interview
- D. The Complete Health History
- E. Assessment Techniques and the Clinical Setting
- F. General Survey, Measurement, and Vital Signs
- G. Pain Assessment
- H. Domestic Violence Assessment and Child Maltreatment
- I. Skin, Hair, Nails
- J. Head, Face, and Neck including the Regional Lymphatics
- K. Eyes
- L. Ears
- M. Nose, Mouth, and Throat
- N. Thorax and Lungs
- O. Heart and Neck Vessels
- P. Peripheral Vascular System and Lymphatic System

- Q. Abdomen
- R. Mental Status Assessment
- S. Neurologic System
- T. Musculoskeletal System
- U. Breasts and Regional Lymphatics
- V. Male Genitourinary System
- W. Anus, Rectum, and Prostate
- X. Female Genitourinary System
- Y. The Complete Health Assessment: Putting It All Together