

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

NURS 4355 Nursing Care of the Critically Ill Adult

Credit Hours: 5

Lecture Hours: 2

Laboratory Hours: 9

Prerequisites: NURS 434C Nursing Care of the Adult II

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Addresses the physiological, psychosocial, cultural and developmental health issues for acutely/critically ill adults and the geriatric population.

B. Additional Information

Emphasis is placed on clinical critical thinking and decision making for adult clients in the medical-surgical setting who are experiencing health problems related to pathophysiologic mechanisms of disease, oxygenation, urinary function regulatory and reproductive, and movement and coordination disorders.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Use **critical thinking** skills in planning care for the critically ill adult client.
2. Promote **research** based interventions with consistent, positive outcomes for the critically ill adult client.
3. Use effective **communication** skills, both written and oral, in working with critically ill adult clients and their families.
4. Promote the **leadership and management** role of the professional nurse by using the American Association Critical Care Nurses Standards of Care and the American Association Critical Care Nurses Standards of Professional Practice.
5. Collaborate with critically ill adult clients and families in **health promotion** activities.

6. Integrate American Association Critical Care Nurses' Critical Care **nurse role responsibilities** into planning care for the critically ill adult client.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will think critically in analyzing to reach viable solutions to a problem and assess and justifying their solutions.

Quantitative Reasoning: Students will apply appropriate mathematical models to solve problems.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will identify ethical dilemmas and affected parties.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will demonstrate the understanding or application of their discipline in a global environment.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Fundamental Concepts
- B. Patient and Family Responses in Critical Care
- C. Ethical and Legal Issues in Critical Care Nursing
- D. Palliative and End of Life care in Critical Care
- E. Comfort and Sedation in Critical Care
- F. Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management
- G. Hemodynamic Monitoring
- H. Cardiovascular Alterations in Critical Care
- I. Shock, Sepsis, Multiple Organ Dysfunction
- J. Ventilatory Assistance
- K. Acute Respiratory Failure
- L. Nervous System Alterations in Critical Care
- M. Endocrine Alterations in Critical Care
- N. Trauma and Surgical Management
- O. Burns