

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

NURS 3165 Health Assessment

Credit Hours: 5 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory or other types of Hours: 4

Prerequisite(s): Admission to BSN program

Prerequisite(s) or corequisite(s): NURS 3225 Nursing Fundamentals, PHAR 3203 Nursing Pharmacology and NURS 2202 Nursing Math

Effective Catalog: 2023-2024

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. The course provides 56.25 lab hours and meets the UAFS BSN program's health assessment requirement.

B. Additional Course Description: 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 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 in nursing and health care related settings.

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. The Interview
- C. The Complete Health History
- D. Assessment Techniques and the Clinical Setting
- E. General Survey, Measurement, and Vital Signs
- F. Pain Assessment
- G. Domestic Violence Assessment
- H. Skin, Hair, Nails
- I. Head, Face, and Neck including the Regional Lymphatics
- J. Eyes
- K. Ears
- L. Nose, Mouth, and Throat
- M. Thorax and Lungs
- N. Heart and Neck Vessels
- O. Peripheral Vascular System and Lymphatic System
- P. Abdomen
- Q. Neurologic System
- R. Musculoskeletal System
- S. Breasts and Regional Lymphatics
- T. Male Genitourinary System
- U. Anus, Rectum, and Prostate
- V. Female Genitourinary System
- W. The Complete Health Assessment: Putting It All Together