

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
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## **General Syllabus**

### **NURS 4356 Nursing Care of the Critically Ill Adult**

Credit Hours: 6                      Lecture Hours: 4                      Laboratory or other types of Hours: 6

Prerequisite(s): Admission to BSN program and either NURS 4336 Nursing Care of the Adult II or NURS 3339 Adult Medical Surgical Nursing

Prerequisite(s) or corequisite(s): NURS 4011 NCLEX Preparation II; NURS 4363 Leadership in Professional Nursing; NURS 4453 Community Health Nursing

Effective Catalog: 2023-2024

#### **I. Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description:**

Addresses the physiological, psychosocial, cultural, and developmental health issues for acutely/critically ill adults and emphasizes the geriatric population. This course includes 90 hours in the clinical setting.

##### **B. Additional Course Description:**

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

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**

Students will think critically in analyzing to reach viable solutions to a problem and assess and justify their solutions.

**Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

**Ethical Decision Making**

Students will model ethical decision-making processes in nursing and health care related settings.

**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