American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Health Sciences
NURS654
Program Development and Evaluation
in Community and Public Health Nursing
Credit Hours: 4
Length of Course: 8 weeks
Prerequisite: PBHE 520, PBHE 527, PBHE 550, & PBHE 607

Instructor Information

Please refer to the Instructor Profile on the course homepage for your instructor's contact information and biography.

Course Description (Catalog)

Community and Public Health Nurses practicing at an advanced level must possess the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the health of communities and populations. Students will build on their previous knowledge and learn to design public health programs to improve health outcomes. Topics include assessing community and public health needs along with planning programs to meet those needs. Students work with the Practicum Coordinator and faculty to identify a qualified preceptor and to select a practicum site. Students will complete 40 of the 160 hours of clinical practice required for completion of the program.

Course Scope

This course is divided into 8 weeks and is designed to provide the learner with key concepts of community and public health nursing required for developing and evaluating programs to improve the health of communities and populations. Learners will identify a public health need and develop a program plan to meet that need. Learners will complete 40 hours of supervised clinical practice designed to enhance the development of community and public health programs.

Course Learning Objectives

The following objectives are aligned with the MSN Program Outcomes (PO):
1. Describe the impact of social, behavioral, environmental, and biological factors on the health of communities and populations. (PO 1,4)
2. Evaluate the role of the public health nurse in meeting healthcare needs of communities and populations. (PO 2,8)

3. Use assessment data and evidence-based principles to plan and implement programs to improve the healthcare outcomes of communities and populations. (PO 2)
4. Identify local health care policies to evaluate a need for revisions or development of a new policy to improve community health outcomes. (PO 3, 6)
5. Develop a program evaluation plan for a proposed community program. (PO 2,4)
6. Analyze available financial resources for a community health program proposal. (PO 2, 5, 6)
7. Collaborate with community stakeholders to develop a community program to improve health outcomes. (PO 2, 7)

Module Learning Objectives are located within the course.
Master's Essentials covered in this course include II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX.

Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to MyClassroom will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due weekly as noted on the course outline and can include Discussions questions and written assignments. Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Materials

Required Course Textbooks:
All required readings and resources are available within MyClassroom.

Academic Writing Requirements:
The School of Health Sciences requires use of APA format and style and all students are encouraged to have a current copy of the *APA Publication Manual.* All written assignments are to be submitted in APA format style unless otherwise noted in the assignment directions.

Evaluation Procedures

Discussions
Please join the discussions each week. Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week will not be graded. The Discussions are for student interaction and input should be submitted before the week ends in order to fully participate in the discussions. Students should demonstrate their own knowledge in the discussions and avoid copying and pasting from websites. In this class there are 6 graded discussions.

Guidelines:

- Post the initial response to each discussions by 11:55pm, ET, Wednesday
- Initial responses are to be original in content and demonstrate a thorough analysis of the topic.
- Reply to more than two of your classmates in each discussions by 11:55pm, ET, Sunday for full participation credit.
- Responses to classmates are significant to advance the discussions.
- All discussions can be accessed in the Discussions section of the course.
- Respond to all questions posed to you in your initial post by instructor and/or peers.

An initial post must precede the response posts to peers. An initial post received after Wednesday 11:55 pm will receive a 10% deduction for each day, for 3 days, prior to discussions being graded. This means the highest grade possible for a late submission of 3 days, is 70%. However, response posts are due by Sunday 11:55 pm. If response posts are not submitted by this time, the discussion is over. Therefore, no points can be awarded for collaboration, and the highest grade possible for late submission past 3 days is 60%.

Tests/ Quizzes
There are no tests/quizzes in this course.

Written Assignments
There are 4 written assignments due throughout the course. All assignment instructions and grading rubrics are located in the Assignments area of MyClassroom. Assignments are due by 11:59 pm EST on the Sunday of the week they are assigned, or as indicated in the Assignments area.

Course Grading Outline

Grading Instrument	Percentage of Final Grade
Introduction Discussion	1%
Weekly Discussions (Weeks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8)	24%
Personal Practicum Goals and Objectives (S.M.A.R.T.) (Week 1)	5%
Public Health Assessment & Analysis – Written Paper (Week 3)	25%
Program Development Plan - Outline (Week 5)	20%
Program Proposal Presentation – PowerPoint with Audio (Week 7)	25%
TOTAL	100%

Course Outline

Module	Topic	Learning Objectives	Readings	Practicum	Assignments
1	Introduction to Advanced Practice in Community/ Public Health Community Assessment Community/Public Health Frameworks and Models	1. Explore the advanced practice nursing role for community/public health nurses. 2. Identify best practices for performing a community assessment. 3. Identify a model or framework to guide community assessment and program development.	As assigned	Meet with preceptor to: 1) provide copy of Practicum Handbook, 2) discuss personal practicum goals/ objectives Complete 5 practicum hours this week	Introduction Discussion Week 1 Discussion Personal Practicum Goals and Objectives (S.M.A.R.T.)
Module	**Topic**	**Learning Objectives**	**Readings**	**Practicum**	**Assignments**
2	Community Assessment Data Community Diagnosis	1. Search for community/public health data regarding demographics; vital statistics; health behaviors; physical environment; environmental health; health and social services; economics-labor force; safety services, transportation; politics and government; communication; technology/computers; education; recreation; culture, values, and beliefs; and global health. 2. Analyze and synthesize data to develop a community diagnosis highlighting the community health status and strengths of the community.	As assigned	Complete 5 practicum hours this week	Week 2 Discussion
Module	**Topic**	**Learning Objectives**	**Readings**	**Practicum**	**Assignments**
3	Community Health Program Planning	1. Identify a theoretical foundation for program interventions.	As assigned	Complete 5 practicum hours this week	Public Health Assessment & Analysis Paper

Module	Topic	Learning Objectives	Readings	Practicum	Assignments
	Budget Development	2. Explore community financial resources to assist with funding of program implementation. 3. Examine local or national policies for the existence of legislation aimed at improving community health outcomes.			
Module	**Topic**	**Learning Objectives**	**Readings**	**Practicum**	**Assignments**
4	Community Health Program Implementation Community Health Program Evaluation Plan	1. Identify a change theory to guide program develop for community change. 2. Explore the 5 phases of program implementation. 3. Discuss the need for interprofessional collaboration for program implementation and sustainability. 4. Explore the program evaluation plan focused on structure, process, and outcomes.	As assigned	Ensure preceptor submits practicum progress report to Typhon Complete 5 practicum hours this week	Week 4 Discussion
Module	**Topic**	**Learning Objectives**	**Readings**	**Practicum**	**Assignments**
5	Community Program Evaluation Recommendations for Program Revisions	1. Develop evaluation questions to measure effectiveness identifying the goal, objective, standard, and measure. 2. Explore the role of the program evaluator with varying stakeholder objectives. 3. Examine descriptive and inferential statistics. 4. Explore the evaluation report and program revision processes.	As assigned	Complete 5 practicum hours this week	Program Development Plan Week 5 Discussion
Module	**Topic**	**Learning Objectives**	**Readings**	**Practicum**	**Assignments**
6	Community/ Public Health Practice Settings and the Future	1. Examine the different practice environments for public/community health nurses.	As assigned	Complete 5 practicum hours this week	Week 6 Discussion

Module	Topic	Learning Objectives	Readings	Practicum	Assignments
		2. Explore the future opportunities and direction of public/community health nursing.			
7	Community Program Proposal Presentation	1. Develop and present a community program proposal.	As assigned	Complete 5 practicum hours this week	Program Proposal Presentation
Module	Topic	Learning Objectives	Readings	Practicum	Assignments
8	Course Reflection	1. Reflect on the program development process and course outcomes	As assigned	Ensure preceptor submits practicum progress report to Typhon Complete 5 practicum hours this week	Week 8 Discussion

Policies

Nursing Program Policies

Assignment and Coursework Grading Policy
Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the designated due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. Failure to submit coursework by the designated due date will result in a ten percent (10%) penalty per day until three (3) days after the coursework is due. Therefore, after three (3) days, the maximum grade the student can achieve with a late submission will be a grade of 70% (C-). If a student is ill, has a family crisis, or will miss scheduled coursework deadlines for any reason, the student shall notify the instructor in advance if at all possible. Assignments will NOT be accepted more than seven (7) days after the due date unless prior arrangements have been made in advance of the due date.

Use of Online Sources such as Course Hero
In addition to the university's plagiarism policy, students who are found to have submitted materials plagiarized from any online source, such as Course Hero, will be reported to the university and may fail the course and/or be expelled APUS. Use of said materials is academic dishonesty and will not be tolerated.

Self-Plagiarism

Each course in the program has unique course learning objectives designed to build professional knowledge and skills. To accomplish these learning objectives, all work submitted for a course must be original and cannot be a resubmission of one's own previous work. When repeating a course, students must submit newly created work as well.

Course Completion and Progression Requirements
Effective September 1st, 2015 (For all students who started NURS300 after September 1, 2015, and beyond), to pass the course and progress in the nursing program, students must achieve a final course grade of a 73% (C) or better. In the capstone course, NURS498: Senior Seminar in Nursing Studies, students must achieve a final course grade of an 84% (B) or better in order to pass the course and graduate from the nursing program.

Communications

Student Communication

To reach the instructor, please communicate through the MyClassroom email function accessible from the Classlist of the Course Tools menu, where the instructor and students email addresses are listed, or via the Office 365 tool on the Course homepage.

- In emails to instructors, it's important to note the specific course in which you are enrolled. The name of the course is at the top center of all pages.
- Students and instructors communicate in Discussion posts and other learning activities.
- All interactions should follow APUS guidelines, as noted in the Student Handbook, and maintain a professional, courteous tone.
- Students should review writing for spelling and grammar.
- Tips on Using the Office 365 Email Tool

Instructor Communication

The instructor will post announcements on communications preferences involving email and Instant Messaging and any changes in the class schedule or activities.

- Instructors will periodically post information on the expectations of students and will provide feedback on assignments, Discussion posts, quizzes, and exams.
- Instructors will generally acknowledge student communications within 24 hours and respond within 48 hours, except in unusual circumstances (e.g., illness).
- The APUS standard for grading of all assessments (assignments, Discussions, quizzes, exams) is five days or fewer from the due date.
- Final course grades are submitted by faculty no later than seven days after the end date of the course or the end of the extension period.
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University Policies

Consult the Student Handbook for processes and policies at APUS. Notable policies:

- Drop/Withdrawal Policy
- Extension Requests
- Academic Probation

- Appeals
- Academic Dishonesty / Plagiarism
- Disability Accommodations
- Student Deadlines
- Video Conference Policy

Mission

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Please consult the catalog for the minimum hardware and software required for undergraduate and graduate courses.
- Although students are encouraged to use the Pulse mobile app with any course, please note that not all course work can be completed via a mobile device.

Disclaimers

- Please note that course content – and, thus, the syllabus – may change between when a student registers for a course and when the course starts.
- Course content may vary from the syllabus' schedule to meet the needs of a particular group.