

Dear Student:

The faculty and I are anxiously awaiting your arrival to N221, the Mental Health Nursing course. This course is very interesting and exciting. While focusing on essential content regarding mental health problems and the appropriate nursing interventions, you will experience an increase in your own awareness about self.

Nursing #221 is a six credit hour course offered over eight weeks of the semester. The Master N221 Blackboard Site will be available for students at least one week prior to the beginning of class.

There are six hours of lecture and eighteen hours of clinical (16 actual clinical hours working with clients) per week. Lecture is on Mondays and Thursdays (8:00 am-12:00pm) and clinical is usually on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (8hrs/day). Clinical times vary anywhere from 7am-5pm. Evening clinical sections may be available. While the content is focused on a specialty area (psychiatric/mental health nursing), you will be building on previously learned knowledge about the biological and social sciences, nursing and communication skills.

Evaluation for this course is based on 3 unit exams, a comprehensive final exam and a satisfactory grade in clinical. Every student is required to take the dosage calculation examination at the beginning of the Course. **Students will be required to score a 90% on the dosage calculation examination in order to continue in the course. Two retakes are allowed. If a grade of less than 90% is obtained on the second retake exam, the student will be withdrawn from the course.**

At the end of the course, each student must take the Mental Health HESI Examination. A HESI remediation program must be completed if you score below 850 and this activity must be completed prior to entering into NAC II.

The textbooks required for the course are:

1. Mohr, W. (2009). *Psychiatric-mental health nursing: Evidence-based concepts, skills, and practices* (7th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.
2. Varcarolis, E.M. (2011). *Manual of psychiatric nursing care plans: Diagnoses clinical tools and psychopharmacology*. (4th ed.) Philadelphia: Saunders.

It is mandatory that you have the following and **that they are valid through the end of the semester:**

1. current Healthcare Provider CPR card.
2. Hepatitis B vaccination.
3. current PPD or chest x-ray results.
4. current personal health insurance.
5. current student nurse professional liability insurance.

Also make sure that immunization and other health related information remains up to date in your health folder. Some clinical facilities are strongly encouraging that nursing students having clinical at their facility receive the flu vaccine.

Students who have been out more than a semester should come with cash or a money order (\$25 payable to PDS) for a drug screen sometime during the first week.

Please contact me at 571-1287 if you need further information. Enjoy your break and come back to school energized for an exciting Fall Semester.

Respectfully,

Cindy Hoppe, DNS RN
Professor/Educational Coordinator N221
Mental Health Nursing