

Basic Course Information for NUR 614 (revised 3/5/09)

This course focuses on chronic illness and aging. You will select a population of patients/clients who are older and have a specific chronic illness. See suggested chronic illness patient population and clinical agency, clinical site, or facility lists below.

You will also choose three concepts of chronic illness and aging. See concepts list below. You will spend about 37 hours of clinical time with your group of patients and families to investigate their perceptions of your three selected concepts. You will write two clinical logs outlining your clinical time. At the end of the semester, you will write a clinical paper that includes:

- descriptions of your patients' and/or families' perceptions and insights regarding your three chronic illness and aging concepts.
- examination and analysis of evidence-based interventions for your three chronic illness and aging concepts obtained from a comprehensive review of the literature. This review includes research articles from databases and professional organization care guidelines.
- your final plan of care that includes your selected interventions for improving patient or family outcomes, supported by evidence regarding these three chronic illness and aging concepts.

The bulk of your clinical time will be spent in interactions (primarily communication) with your patient population with their spouses, partners, family, or caregivers. You will not be providing care to patient(s) or performing physical assessments. You will be working independently with your patient population. Your preceptor does not need to accompany you or even be present at the site at the time of your patient or family interaction. (See role of clinical preceptor below) You will not be performing any new skills or competencies. You will be performing in your student role as a RN. You will also be conducting a comprehensive literature search for evidence to support your chosen interventions.

Clinical hours = 45 clock hours. 37 hours are allotted for your patient/family interactions and literature search/analysis

A second focus of the course is to identify financial information and costs of the agency where you are doing clinical work and present a budget for some aspect of the agency's budget. This means that you should spend time with an economic officer of the agency to determine who develops and manages the budget for the agency. You will answer questions related to your clinical site's financial aspects of the care of your patient population in an informal paper format in INQSIT. Eight hours of the total 45 clock hours is allotted for this activity.

Suggested Chronic Illness Patient Populations

(We prefer that you choose a patient population that is a new or different patient group for you)

- Heart Failure (CHF)
- End-Stage Renal Disease/Renal Failure
- COPD
- Diabetes
- Stroke/CVA
- Dementia
- Leukemia
- Vascular Disease (peripheral arterial disease, venous insufficiency, aneurysms)
- Chronic liver failure
- Parkinson's disease
- Multiple sclerosis
- ALS
- Arthritis that affects ADL and functional performance
- Others (ask)

Clinical Agency/Facility/Site Suggestions:

- Hospitals
- Clinics (heart failure, diabetes, nurse practitioner offices, physicians offices, etc.)
- Extended care facilities (nursing homes, assisted living, geri day care)

- Cancer Centers
- Geriatric Centers
- Home Health Agency
- Rehabilitation Program (Cardiac, Pulmonary, etc.)
- Chronic Ventilator Hospitals
- Dialysis Centers
- Hospice

Chronic Illness and Aging Concepts (SELECT THREE for your clinical focus)

- Stigma
- Chronicity
- Symptom management-Dyspnea, Fatigue, or Pain (not all three, select just one symptom)
- Adaptation
- Self care
- Family caregiving
- Functional performance/status
- Social Isolation
- Altered Mobility/Immobility
- Body Image
- Quality of Life
- Adherence/Compliance
- Sexuality
- Powerlessness

Clinical Forms and Documentation

We must receive the following forms at the beginning of the semester by the deadline of Friday of the first week of the semester. You may find these agreements on [Forms](#) WEB site. These forms and documentation must be mailed and NOT faxed to Dianne Parish, Ball State University, School of Nursing, Muncie, IN, 47306.

- Clinical Agency Agreement Form- You must submit a clinical agency agreement contract that is signed by an appropriate individual from your selected clinical agency, facility, or clinical site.
- Clinical Preceptor Information Form (see more information below)

Before beginning clinical experiences at clinical agency, facility, or clinical site, all students must submit current documentation of information, certifications, and/or forms as listed in the summary of required documents below. These include PPD, HIPPA certification, etc.

Clinical Preceptor Role

The role of the clinical preceptor in this course is to be an advisor to you. You will not be working directly with the clinical preceptor as you interact with your patient population as you will not be providing direct care or performing any new skills.

You will be sharing course outcomes with your preceptor. You will be asking her/him to review your clinical objectives. As the semester progresses, you and she/he should communicate as to your attainment of your clinical objectives. See clinical objectives below.

As stated above, it is not necessary for the preceptor to be present during your clinical time or actually be employed at your clinical agency or facility. However, if the clinical preceptor is not employed at the clinical agency or facility, you should communicate the role of the clinical preceptor to appropriate individual(s) at the clinical agency or facility. You may need to clarify that you will be working in role of a RN and that your interactions will be primarily communication interactions with your patient population and that no direct supervision is needed during your clinical experiences.

All clinical preceptors are required to have a masters degree in nursing. Physicians may not be a clinical preceptor for this course.

Once you have obtained a clinical preceptor, you will need to email Debra Siela at dsiela@bsu.edu with your clinical preceptor information so that she may approve your chosen preceptor. In addition, once Debra approves your chosen preceptor, you are required to submit a *clinical preceptor information form*. We need this *clinical preceptor information form* even if you have used this same preceptor before in the graduate program. We need a separate *clinical preceptor information form* on file for each of your clinical courses. You will be mailing this form and not faxing it to us.

You may want to share your clinical logs and other course assignments with your clinical preceptor. You may meet face to face during the semester or you may choose to communicate by phone or email. At the end of the semester, she/he will be evaluating your attainment of appropriate program and course outcomes on a specific *clinical preceptor evaluation of student form*. You may obtain this form and other forms from [Forms](#) WEB site. I will write a letter to your clinical preceptor verifying you are a graduate student in NUR 614.

Non-Clinical Course Work in Blackboard

You will choose a student partner to complete the discussion board assignments in blackboard. The assignments include literature reviews and development of case studies.

Course Textbooks

Larsen, Pamala & Lubkin, Ilene Morof. *Chronic Illness: Impact and Interventions 7th Edition* (2009). Boston: Jones and Bartlett.

Ebersole, P., Hess, P., Touhy, T., Jett, K., Luggen, A. *Toward Healthy Aging: Human Needs and Nursing Response*. (2008). St. Louis: Mosby Elsevier.

Clinical Objectives

After you have selected your group of chronic illness patients and three chronic illness and aging concepts, you will write clinical objectives for this clinical experience. You should have at least five objectives. You need to include your three chronic illness and aging concepts in your objectives as well as an objective regarding the financial plan and budget for your clinical facility, agency, or clinical site regarding the care of your patient population. Submit your clinical objectives by email attachment to Debra Siela at dsiela@bsu.edu.

Summary of Needed Required Documents, Forms, and Information

All of the following must be mailed by U.S. mail to: Dianne Parish, Ball State University School of Nursing, Muncie, IN 47306

- Clinical Preceptor Information Form
- Clinical Agency Agreement Form
- Evidence of current PPD (tuberculin) or equivalent (annual)
- Hepatitis B (vaccination or immune status)
- Current HIPPA (annual)
- Current Informed Consent
- Current Background Check (annual)
- Current RN License

Email the following to Debra Siela at: dsiela@bsu.edu.

- Type of chronic illness patient population
- Type of clinical site, agency, or facility
- Name and qualifications of clinical preceptor
- Clinical objectives