COURSE NUMBER: MSN 408
COURSE TITLE: Clinical Practicum for Advanced Practice Nurses
CREDIT HOURS: 1-9 Semester Hrs. (Variable)
FACULTY: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This practicum course guides the student toward a synthesis of concepts and content from nursing and related sciences, and toward the application of this knowledge to the advanced practice nursing of patients across the adult age spectrum. In the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) program, students are prepared to influence three spheres: the patient, nursing personnel, and the health-care system, with the primary goal of continuous improvement of patient outcomes and nursing care. This course prepares students to make important contributions to health care including: serving as clinical experts in the delivery of evidence-based nursing interventions; developing, influencing, and evaluating population-based programs of care; educating nurses and health care professionals in solving patient care problems; implementing improvements in the health care delivery system; and collaborating with interdisciplinary teams to coordinate care and implement best practice models. Most experiences are provided in clinical areas related to the student’s area of specialization.

COURSE OUTCOMES:
At the end of the course the student will be able to:
1. Apply nursing or health related models/concepts in the clinical practice setting.
2. Collaborate with interdisciplinary health professionals to coordinate health care services and to implement best practice models.
3. Demonstrate the role of the advanced practice nurse across the three spheres of influence: the patient, nursing personnel, and the health-care system
5. Incorporate teaching-learning principles in meeting the educational needs of patients, their families, professional nursing staff, and the community at large.
6. Explore ethical issues relevant to nursing practice with patients across the adult health spectrum.

COURSE FORMAT:
This variable credit clinical course strongly emphasizes the attainment and refinement of APN skills. It is expected that students actively participate in demonstrating beginning role competency. This involves demonstration of critical thinking, initiative and responsibility for learning, reflection on professional growth, and tracking of competencies achieved. Students complete at least 504 clock hours prior to graduation. These hours can be divided up over several semesters. The practicum consists of supervised experiences with assigned preceptors/faculty in a variety of clinical sites selected to optimize attainment of course objectives. Prior to the start of the semester students meet with the assigned preceptor to develop individualized objectives based
on learning needs and to determine project expectations. Students will meet with both faculty and preceptor at the start of the semester.

TEACHING METHODS:

A variety of teaching/learning methods will be used to provide students with engagement (rather than observation), practice and reflection. The majority of learning will take place through supervised clinical experiences with assigned preceptors. Strategies designed to enhance reflection include written logs, self-evaluation, and participation in seminars throughout each semester, as well as the completion of case studies, teaching projects and APN role projects (see below for details on these). Other strategies include preceptor-student interactions, learning lab activities, computer-assisted learning, student presentations, contact with content experts, and review of relevant literature and critical research. Practice standards and guidelines from specialty organizations and governmental agencies are emphasized in clinical practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Each semester for all students:

Seminar attendance and participation                                                   Mandatory
Clinical performance/ self-evaluation regarding achievement of objectives  
(using Evaluation of Student Clinical Performance tool)                                  70%
Clinical Experience and Reflection logs (see attached form)                          15%

One of the following for each 3 SH for all students, depending on level of clinical practicum: 15%

- Clinical case study
- Teaching project and evaluation
- Role project

• For each of these, a scholarly paper and presentation at seminar is expected. Further information and examples may be found in the Course Materials section on Blackboard.

GRADING POLICY

The 408 course is essential to advanced practice, and requires a B- or better grade. Students receiving a grade lower than a B- must repeat the course before progressing in their APN specialty program. Refer to Student Handbook.

Students may request and then complete/file for an “I” (incomplete) grade in MSN 408. However, since any given clinical course is inherently a prerequisite for subsequent clinical course(s), the student should not register for a succeeding clinical course until that “I” is replaced with an evaluative grade.

ONGOING STUDENT EVALUATION:

Students participate in a variety of assessments using evaluation tools available in Blackboard course materials. These include:
• Preceptor’s evaluation of student each semester
• Student’s evaluation of preceptor and clinical site each semester
• Student’s self-evaluation each semester (Use the template for self-evaluation found in Course Materials in Sakai). This 2-3 page summary will demonstrate:
  1. The student's ability to engage in critical self-reflection in order to evaluate progress toward meeting personal and course objectives.
  2. Understanding of the complex nature of advanced practice nursing.
  3. Capacity to use feedback derived from faculty, preceptors, and colleagues to enhance one's own professional role development.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:


