

**ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING**

**NUR 4991  
Nursing Skills Competency I**

**Course Syllabus**



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**Spring 2020**

**Course: NUR 4991**

**Title: NURSING SKILLS I COMPETENCY**

**Credit Hours: ONE (1) HOUR**

### **Course Description**

The course assesses skill competency the student has completed the prior semester but unable to progress to Level I. *The course is self-directed and faculty strongly encourage the student to attend class (NUR 3103) to review theory and guided practice of basic psychomotor skills.* Practice is in a multi-media laboratory setting. Emphasis is on skills needed in the care of the client throughout the life cycle. Supportive nursing behaviors are stressed as the student is introduced to skills used in caring for individual clients. Before utilizing these skills in the health care setting, the student must demonstrate confidence in his/her ability and perform the psychomotor skills in the skills laboratory according to set procedures.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the skills course (NUR 3103) are which the student is attempting to prove competency.

### **Conduct of the Course:**

Teacher Role: Demonstrator, Planner, Evaluator, Supporter.

Student Role: Learner, Care giver, Communicator, Collaborator.

Teaching-Learning Strategies: Lecture, discussion, audiovisual materials, including computer assisted instructional programs, and skills demonstration in the Learning Resources Laboratory.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Applies knowledge, skills and abilities to the provision of safe, competent patient care.
2. Facilitates, culturally sensitive caregiving, communication, teaching, advocacy, and management of diverse patient populations and settings.
3. Utilizes research evidence and technology to improve the quality and safety of patient care.
4. Collaborates with intra-professional health care teams in the delivery of patient care.
5. Demonstrates academic achievement and professional growth.

### **Justification/Rationale for the Course:**

1. By the completion of this course the student will progress toward student learning outcomes 1,2,3, 4 and 5.
2. This upper division professional nursing course provides opportunities for the student to apply knowledge and skills from the general education component and from nursing courses to the care of individuals.

### **Faculty:**

Dr. Shaana Escobar, DNP, RN

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## Required Resources:

- Kozier & Erb's (2016). Fundamentals of Nursing (10<sup>th</sup> Ed.). New Jersey, Pearson. (Previously Purchased)
- Audio-Tutorial Materials are available in the Student Learning/Computer Lab and Audio-Visual Lab.

## Evaluation:

### Grading scale:

A - 90-100  
B - 80-89  
C - 75-79  
D - 68-74  
F - 67 or below

### Course Grade:

Skills Exam -----Pass/Fail  
IV Simulator -----25%  
Skills Validation -----75%  
100%

1. Students must achieve a grade of "C" or above must be achieved in every nursing course in order to progress in the nursing program. Any grade below 75% will not be rounded up.
2. Student must make a **75% or above on the last skills course exam** in order to pass the course and/or extensive remediation may be required.
3. A grade of "I" may be recorded for a student who has not completed all the requirements of a course because of illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control, provided work already completed is of passing quality. For all nursing courses "passing quality" is defined as a grade of 75% or above on previously completed work. Before a grade of "I" may be recorded, the student and the instructor must determine course requirements to be completed and the completion date. This information is to be documented by completing the ATU Incomplete Grade Agreement contract.

## Skills competence is also attained by:

1. Completing **10** IV simulator modules with a grade of **80% or higher** located in the Skills Lab.
2. Students will complete skills validation at the end of the semester. The student will draw **2 basic and 2 intermediate to advanced skills** and successfully demonstrate competence with faculty evaluation. Those who do not pass skills validations will be considered failing and **WILL NOT** pass this course.

## Student Responsibility:

1. The student is required to contact the course instructor responsible for Skills Competency on the first day of class.
2. Skills Competency requirements will be reviewed by the course instructor at the beginning of the semester.

## **Abilities and Skills for Admission to and Progression within the Nursing Major**

The ATU Department of Nursing requires abilities and skills for admission and progression in the curriculum based on those required of a practicing professional nurse. *\*\*\*Each student signs a Skills and Abilities Acknowledgement form upon upper division nursing advising/acceptance and/or in their Level 0 nursing courses. This is found in the student's file in the nursing office.*

The professional nurse must possess the knowledge and ability to effectively assist his or her client's biophysical, psychological, social, cultural, and intellectual domains. Further, the professional nurse must competently analyze the assessment data through intellectual processing to arrive at a definition of the client's status or problem, plan independently or collaboratively for a full range of therapeutic interventions, execute all or part of the plans through nursing acts, and evaluate the care delivered and the client's responses to it. A candidate for professional nursing must have the abilities and skills necessary for use of the nursing process (scientific decision-making process). These skills and abilities include: observation; communication; motor ability; conceptualization; integration and quantification; and behavioral/social acceptability. Technological accommodation can be made for some disabilities in certain of these areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable, in that a candidate's judgment must not be mediated by someone else's power of observation and selection.

The following abilities and skills are necessary to meet the requirements of the curriculum:

1. **Observation:** The candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and tactile sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell. This includes student to remain conscious at all times.
2. **Communication:** The candidate must be able to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information; describe changes in mood, activity, and posture; and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech but reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team. For any student with a language barrier or other speech issue. (This often includes communications in a clear, precise, and fluent ability.)
3. **Motor:** Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other assessment maneuvers. A candidate must have sufficient motor skills to gain access to clients in a variety of care settings and to manipulate the equipment central to the treatment of patients receiving professional nursing care. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Students must be able to lift at least 20 lbs. using proper body mechanics.
4. **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** These abilities include measurement, calculation, dimensional analysis, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of nurses, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.
5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in

the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities necessary for professional nursing.

The Department of nursing affirms that all students enrolled in the Department of Nursing must possess those intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required by the faculty for safe professional practice. [Bower, D., Line, L., & Denega, D. (1988). Evaluation instruments in nursing (pp. 71). New York: National League for Nursing.

**Students are expected to:**

- a. Perform their assigned tasks in the practicum/skills lab experiences.
- b. Notify the instructor immediately of any clinical error made
- c. Present written work that is theirs alone.
- d. Correctly document any materials from a textbook, pamphlet, journal, etc., that is used for an assignment.
- e. Be honest and truthful when writing clinical logs and giving verbal or written reports regarding patient care or assignments.
- f. Only use authorized devices or materials for an examination and not copy from other students' papers.
- g. Document material correctly. Plagiarism is defined as stealing and presenting as one's own ideas or words of another, or not documenting material correctly. Student papers may be evaluated by turnitin.com which can detect plagiarism. For the first occurrence of academic dishonesty, the student will receive an F. If there is a second occurrence, the student will be dismissed from the program. Students are referred to the ATU catalog and handbook for policies regarding plagiarism.

**Cell phone:**

There is a **NO cell phone/smart watch policy for all upper division testing/test review**. This includes paper/pencil testing, test review, cooperative testing, and computer testing. If you are discovered with having a cell phone on your person, this will be considered a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy. If we discover that you have your cell phone with you during a unit exam/cooperative testing or unit exam review **you will receive a 0 for the test grade**.

**Disability Statement:**

It is the policy of Arkansas Tech University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008. If you anticipate a barrier while enrolled in this course that is in relation to a disability, please contact your instructor privately to discuss your needs and concerns. You are not required to disclose the specific nature of your disability but you should be able to discuss the impact the disability has upon your academic experience. Additionally, you should contact Disability Services in Doc Bryan Students Services, Suite 141, (479) 968-0302/TTY (479) 964-3290, to begin the accommodation process.

**Academic Honesty:**

Students are expected to be honest and truthful in both classroom and practicum experiences. They are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics and uphold current standards of care. Students are referred to the Arkansas Tech University Student Handbook for more specific regulations regarding academic honesty.