Course Syllabus: Capstone Project
College of Robert D. & Carol Gunn College of Health Sciences & Human Services

NURS 4741
Spring 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Mrs. Stefanie Hoffmann, MSN, RN
Office: Remote / Virtual
Office hours: Tuesdays 10am-12pm and Thursdays 2-4pm; appointments as requested
Cell phone: 940-293-4609
E-mail: Stefanie.hoffmann@msutexas.edu

Course Description

Course Description

1. This capstone course provides students with an experiential learning practicum experience to integrate clinical knowledge with concepts/theories into professional nursing practice. Students will develop a population-focused project utilizing evidence-based resources, address public health competencies and analyze how the identified issue and interventions influence the health of an affected population. Students will integrate leadership skills, healthcare policy, quality improvement, evidence-based and population based care to design a clinically focused project to improve client/community outcomes in collaboration with a faculty member.

2. Credit hours for the course is 1 hour.

3. AACN Essentials: For further information regarding the AACN Essentials identified for each course objective, refer to: The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice   COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To identify an area of interest on a clinical topic or healthcare organizational topic that builds on professional experiences or scholarship.
2. To review the pertinent nursing research literature regarding evidencebased practice and develop a Capstone project topic that has relevance to nursing practice.
3. To demonstrate the scholarship of practice and disseminate knowledge among colleagues and peers through a paper and presentation about the Capstone project topic.

Clinical Objectives
1. Use inter-professional and intra-professional communication and collaborative skills to plan an evidence-based health education poster based on data collected from community assessment (AACN II, III, VI VIII).

2. Prepare appropriate patient teaching that reflects developmental stages, age, culture, spirituality, patient preferences, and health literacy to foster community engagement (AACN I, II, III, VI, VII).

3. Apply relevant local, state, and national guidelines, regulations, and polices to plan and address the health needs of the community (AACN III, V, VII).

Textbook & Instructional Materials

American Psychological Association (2019). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Washington D.C.

Harris, J.L. et. al. *Project Planning and Management: A Guide for Nurses and Interprofessional Teams* (4nd edition). Jones & Bartlett Learning: Burlington, MA.

Student Handbook

Refer to: Student Handbook 2025-2026

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Use of AI

The use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) is permitted in this course for the following activities:
• Brainstorming and refining your ideas
• Fine-tuning your research questions
• Checking grammar and style

The use of generative AI tools is **<u>not</u>** permitted in this course for the following activities:
• Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board
• prompts assigned to you or content that you put into a Zoom chat.
• Completing group work that your group has assigned you unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
• Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
• Writing entire sentences, paragraphs, or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be appropriately documented and cited to stay compliant with university policies on academic honesty. Any assignment that is found to have used generative AI tools in unauthorized ways will be given a grade of zero. When in doubt about permitted usage, please ask for clarification. Any Turnitin AI detectable score over 20% will result in a 0 for that assignment.

Grading
Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment –

Project Completion Log	5%
Part A (Planning/Proposal)	20%
Part B (Project Outline)	20%
Part C: (10% each section)	30%
Part D: Project Presentation	20%
Project Reflection (Self-Evaluation)	5%
Total points	100%

Table 2: Total points for final grade. There will be no rounding of grades.

Grade	Points
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	79 to 74
D	65 to 73
F	64 and below

Projects Required

Assignments vary in each module and each assignment has its own rubric for completion and grading. Written work is to be completed and submitted electronically in the appropriate assignment (drop box) on D2L and submitted by 10:59 pm Central Time on due date. A course average of

atleast 74% is required to pass this course. Faculty reserves the right to make changes at any time to this syllabus. Students are to be accountable for all communications sent by faculty on Desire 2 Learn; therefore, you **must** check the site for announcements, assignments, and messages. Faculty prefer students to use D2L as a means to make a specific request or to ask for content clarification. I forward your D2L emails to my MSU email. If you are unable to access D2L, you may contact faculty via campus email. Virtual and phone appointments are available upon request. All assignments are run through Turn-it-In for a similarity plagiarism score. Scores above 20% similarity will receive a 30-point deduction. Students may revise and resubmit as many times as needed before the due date and time. Only the last submission will be graded.

Late Work

Assignments more than two days late will not be accepted. Assignments submitted late which are within two days of the due date will receive a ten point deduction for each day they are late.

Important Dates

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W: November 24, 2025
Refer to: Drops, Withdrawals & Void

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There

are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into D2L.

Instructor Class Policies

Instructor Drop. An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude or for lack of engagement in the online learning environment. For example, failure to participate in online discussions as schedule and on time is considered being absent. Prior to dropping a student from the class, the instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop at a later date. The date the Office of the Registrar receives the instructor drop form is the official drop date. If a student does not maintain enrollment for one Fall or Spring semester they will be placed on inactive status. If a student were to withdraw for a second time from the same and or any nursing course and or received a second F in the same and or any nursing course, even if the student has repeated a course and received a grade of C or above the student will be dismissed from the program.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the *Schedule of Classes* each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of

the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Disability Support Services

Midwestern State University is committed to providing equal access for qualified students with disabilities to all university courses and programs, and by law all students with disabilities are guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation of their disability. This guarantee is provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA reads: "No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subject to discrimination by any such entity." The Director of Disability Support Services serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at (940) 397-4140, TDD (940) 397-4515, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Student Wellness Center. DSS Webpage

College Policies Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: Campus Carry Rules and Policies

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a final course grade should consult the Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog

Notice
Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Week 1	Project Completion Log	Due Sunday 10:59 pm
Week 2	Part A (Planning/Proposal)	Due Sunday 10:59 pm
Week 3	Part B (Project Outline)	Due Sunday 10:59 pm
Week 4	Part C: Section 1 (1st Draft: Peer Review)	Due Friday 10:59 pm; Peer responses Due Sunday 10:59 pm
Week 5	Part C: Section 2 (Final Draft)	Due Sunday 10:59 pm
Week 6	Part C: Section 3 (PPT Presentation)	Due Sunday 10:59 pm
Week 7	Part D: Project Presentation	Due Wednesday 10:59 pm; Peer responses Due Friday 10:59 pm: Own post questions answered by Sunday 10:59 pm
Week 8	Project Reflection (Self-Evaluation)	Due Wed 10:59 pm