



**Course Syllabus: Pathophysiologic Processes**  
**Gunn College of Health & Human Services Wilson School of Nursing**  
NURS 3203 – 102 Fall 2025  
Thursday 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM CE 304

**Contact Information**

Instructor: Alicia Cure MSN, APRN, FNP-C  
Office: Centennial Hall 440F  
Office hours: By Appointment  
Office phone: (940) 397-4349  
E-mail: [alicia.cure@msutexas.edu](mailto:alicia.cure@msutexas.edu) (Preferred method of contact)

**Course Description**

This course is the study of physiologic and psychosocial disorders with emphasis on dynamics of the altered state. Focus is on interpreting diagnostic tests and predicting pathophysiological adaptations which may occur as a result of these disorders.

Three (3) credit hours.

**Prerequisites:** BIOL 1134 (Anatomy and Physiology I with lab), BIOL1234 (Anatomy and Physiology II with lab), BIOL 2144 (Microbiology), and chemistry (3 hours)

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

**Required materials:**

Banasik, J. (2022). *Pathophysiology* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.  
ISBN: 978-0-323-76155-0 **with Adaptive Quizzing** – This can be the bundle or purchased separately

Adaptive Quizzing for Banasik Pathophysiology.

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1433832161

Exemplify: a software program used for quizzes and exams. You will receive an introductory email to your MSUTexas portal email address with instructions and a link for obtaining the program.

TopHat: a software program that will be used during each class for presentation of the lecture and practice of new information. You will receive an invitation email from the instructor to enroll into the program before the first day of class. The cost is around \$45 which covers all of the classes in which you will be using the program this semester.

### **Extra resources:**

Cross, N. & McWay, D. (2020). *Stanfield's Essential Medical Terminology* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 9781284142211

## **Course Objectives and Competencies**

**American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials:** For further information regarding the AACN Essentials identified for each course objective, refer to [AACN BSN Essentials 2021](#)

**Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs (DECs):** In the DEC Competencies below, the following designations apply: I: Provider of Patient Centered Care, II: Coordinator of Care, III: Patient Safety Advocate and IV: Member of the Health Care Team. For further information regarding the competencies identified for each course objective, refer to [Texas DECs 2021](#)

**NCLEX-RN Test Plan:** The test plan is your guide for the specific topics you should understand and be able to apply critical thinking with prior to graduation. We will use the test plan during every class and activity of each semester. You can find the test plan at [NCLEX-RN Test Plan 2023](#). It is important for you to become very familiar with this information.

### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:	DEC	AACN
1. Explain the etiology, pathogenesis, and possible outcomes of selected pathophysiologic processes.	II. B III. C	1.2a, (I), (EX), (WDP, CDM)  1.2b (I), (EX), (WDP, CDM)  10.2d, (I), (EX), (WDP, CDM)
2. Describe relationships between identified risk factors and the development of pathophysiologic processes.	II. A, B, E, F III. C	1.1b, (I), (EX), (WDP)  1.2a, (I), (EX), (WDP)  2.8c, (I), (SC), (WDP)  3.1d, (I), (SR), (WDP, CDM)
3. Describe specific compensatory mechanisms used by the human body in response to pathophysiologic processes	II. B III. C	1.1b, (I), (EX), (WDP) 1.2a (I), (EX), (WDP) 2.4c (I), (EX), (CDM)
4. Identify the diagnostic tests used to detect and differentiate selected pathophysiologic processes	II. B III. C	1.1b, (I), (EX), (WDP, CDM) 1.2a, (I), (SC), (WDP, CDM) 2.3e, (I), (EX), (WDP, CDM) 5.1c (I), (SC), (WDP, CDM)
5. Demonstrate the ability to identify evidence-based professional journal articles for improving the students' understanding of specific	II. B III. C	1.2b, (I), (SC), (CDM or WDP)

pathophysiologic processes, disorders, and disease		4.1d, (I), (SP), (CDM or WDP)  4.1g (I), (SP), (CDM or WDP)
----------------------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------

## Computer Requirements

Each student must have a computer or tablet and internet access. Most assignments and activities are online, including in-class activities. Assignments will have to be uploaded to submit for grading. It is your responsibility to have access to a working computer to bring to class daily and to complete assignments outside of class. Please bring your charger to use if needed during class or an exam; however, the classrooms do not have easily accessible outlets. It is recommended to charge your device prior to arriving to class for an exam. Maintain a good security program (of your choice) and keep your computer updated. It is a more than a little inconvenient if your computer stops you during an exam because it has to complete an update.

Your computer being down is not an acceptable reason for missing a deadline for an assignment. The nursing school does not have access to tablets or laptops for students to use during exams – you must make arrangements for your own. Computers and printers are available on campus in the library, the Computer lab in Clark Student Center, and in various buildings on campus.

Extensive use of the MSU D2L learning management system (LMS) is required in all of your courses. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides the primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through your “my.msutexas.edu” Homepage. Technical information is available on the MSUTexas portal and your D2L home page. If you experience difficulties, please contact the [helpdesk@msutexas.edu](mailto:helpdesk@msutexas.edu). The helpdesk technicians are not able to personally work on your computer but may be able to help you with getting internet access and navigating the MSU portal and D2L.

## Learning Activities

Learning activities may include lectures, discussion & quizzes using TopHat, pre-lecture quizzes, required reading, case studies with group discussion, concept maps, unit exams, a final exam, and a formal term paper.

### **A&P and Medical Terminology.**

Nurses must become experts at listening, understanding, speaking, and writing with excellent terminology and communication skills to assure patient safety. Medical terminology will be extensively practiced in class and will be used on exams, so is important to pay close attention to in preparation for class and exams.

**Fluid, Electrolyte & Acid-Base Balance:** These topics are often challenging for new nursing students to master, but they are some of the most important topics nurses need to understand – not memorize, but understand – the bedrock of pharmacology and medical-surgical nursing. We will be studying some aspect of these topics in every class.

**Term Paper:** A paper on a disease, disorder, or pathophysiology topic of your choice (but requires approval by the instructor) will be completed for 15% of your final adjusted grade. A rubric for its completion and grading is provided in the D2L table of contents, and will be discussed in class. APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format is to be used for the paper, citations, and reference list, and papers will be analyzed using Turn-It-In, a software program that identifies plagiarism. A Turn-It-In score of 30% or less is required for this paper. **A score higher than 30% will lead to up to a 30 point deduction.**

**Adaptive Quizzing:** Adaptive quizzing will be assigned to be completed prior to lecture during a given week. See the course schedule for due dates. Late submission will not be accepted and will result in a zero for that quiz assignment.

### **Evaluation**

Attendance is **required** for this course. If you are going to be absent, you must notify the instructor by email or text prior to the class. The instructor may ask for documentation for the given reason. Excessive absences (4 or more) may result in dismissal from the course. Professional behavior in the classroom is mandatory and is counted as part of your participation/professionalism grade.

All course requirements must be met in order to pass the course. Nursing students must achieve a grade average of at least 74 on exams in order to pass the class (**before the adaptive quizzing, term paper, and TopHat/ participation grades are added**). A student who receives a D or F in two nursing courses may not continue in the nursing program.

No extra credit is available for this course. Grades are not rounded.

Assignments & Grades	Points
Unit Exams (4)	60%
Final Exam	15%
Term Paper	15%
TopHat Participation/Professionalism	5%
Adaptive Quizzing Assignments	5%
Total Points	100%

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

### Exams

**Exams** will cover learning objectives outlined in the unit(s) of study, including medical terminology, and may contain multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer questions. Four Unit exams and a Final exam will be given. All exams are comprehensive, meaning that all the information covered in a unit must be used to understand the next unit.

Exams are given by computer. The Exemplify program will be used for in-class exams, and require either a laptop or tablet.

### ExamSoft

1. Exam Soft requires loading Exemplify application for taking course exams. Exam Soft is purchased online each semester.
2. The desks in Centennial Hall do not provide electrical outlets. It is the student's responsibility to provide an alternative charging source to ensure computer battery remains charged. Students are responsible for having a compatible computer or tablet on which to participate in the course activities and take the exams.
3. Each unit exam will be comprised of: The dates and topics located on the course calendar.
4. All exams are comprehensive.
5. Exam Soft will provide students with user identity codes, initial

passwords, and instructions on how to load Exemplify. Students must maintain ready access to user identity codes and passwords on exam days. If these access codes are not available for use, the student runs the risk of not taking an exam and earning a grade of zero.

If a student misses any exam, the student may take the Make-up Exam scheduled after the start of the semester.

**Missing an exam:** If you must miss an exam for any reason, you must notify the instructor by phone or email **before** the scheduled exam time. The instructor may ask for a doctor's note or other written excuse prior to allowing a missed exam to be made up. If notification is not given, you will receive a zero for the exam. Late arrival for an exam will not be allowed. The instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of "zero" for late arrival. If a student is going to be late to an exam the same policy for missing an exam must be followed. Being unprepared to start the exam at the start of class is considered being late for the exam. Have the exam downloaded prior to your arrival. Lack of notification constitutes a "no call – no show."

**Make-up exams:** Make-up exams will only be given on specific dates twice during each semester. Dates will be announced after the semester begins. Makeup exams may be in different format than original exam including long essay. If the student cannot make up an exam as scheduled, a grade of zero will be entered into the gradebook.

**Exam Procedures:** Exams will be given at the beginning of class on specified dates. Please download your exam before you come to class as we will not use class time for downloading. Instructions for using Exemplify will be given and practiced prior to the first time it is used for an exam.

No materials may be kept at your desk during the exam except for student ID, computer/mouse, and a pencil or pen. **Cell phones, smart-watches, or smart glasses (including but not limited to Google, Apple, or Meta) are not allowed in the testing area.** If a cell phone rings/alarms during an exam, the faculty may administer a warning, and may administer a zero if a second instance occurs. The instructor will provide scratch paper which must be turned in after the exam is uploaded. All personal belongings aside from those listed must be placed at the front of the classroom prior to beginning the exam. There will be no caps or hats allowed during exams.

**Exam Grades:** If a student makes less than 74% on any exam, he or she is recommended to make an appointment or attend office hours with the professor to discuss the situation. This meeting should take place as soon as possible after the grades are posted, and before the next exam. Students must email the faculty within five (5) days after grades are posted to schedule an appointment for exam/grade discussion. Appointment requests submitted after five days will not be honored. After another exam is administered, previous exams will not be discussed.

### **Midterm Progress**

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this course will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. Midterm grades will not be reported on the student's transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with the professor and seek out tutoring through the Tutoring & Academic Support Programs (link to the website <https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp/>).

### **Late Work, Make-up Work**

Nursing students must practice following instructions and staying on schedule. Any time a student must be absent, or is unable to complete an assignment on time for any reason, he or she should contact and inform the instructor of the situation as soon as possible. Unexcused late work will have a deduction of up to 10 percentage points for every day late. These policies may vary for the Term Paper. See Term Paper rubric.

### **Instructor's Class Policies – Citizenship and Professionalism**

As a nursing student, you should always practice behaving as a professional nurse. That means treating others in a professional, respectful manner. Being late to class, leaving in the middle of class unless an emergency exists, failing to silence your cell phone, texting or browsing the internet, talking in class instead of listening are behaviors that detract from your responsibility as a student, and from your classmates' ability to get everything they need from the class. Children may not be brought to class per University policy. As a nursing student, you need to be in class and participating in order to get the most from your education. You will only be taking Pathophysiology one time (hopefully), and anything you miss out on now will be a problem for you in your future nursing courses.

Students who demonstrate distracting or disrespectful behaviors will be asked to leave the classroom. If a student demonstrates continuing behaviors that are distracting to his/her classmates, the student may be administratively dropped from the course. Disregard for the attendance policy may also result in being dropped from the course.

### **Student Handbook**

Refer to: [MSU Texas Nursing](#) and [MSU Student Handbook](#)

### **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

This course adheres to the MSU Code of Conduct. In particular, academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach in academic integrity. A student's participation in this course comes with the expectation that his or her work will be completed in full observance of the MSU Code of Student Conduct. A student should consult the current Student Handbook for answers to any questions about the code.

Students are encouraged to take full advantage of many resources available including online Desire 2 Learn course resources, Internet sites, other textbooks and journals, faculty, and peers when accomplishing objectives. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive for life-long learning.

However, all components of the course are designed to represent the efforts of each student individually or each group of students individually when completing a group project and are not to be shared, copied, or plagiarized from other sources. When students submit their efforts for grading, they are attesting they abided by this rule.

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, collusion, plagiarism or the acquisition of tests or test questions and other academic materials such as test banks without the permission of the faculty. Cheating, collusion, or plagiarism is defined as: (1) cheating - intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, equipment, or study aids in any academic exercise; (2) collusion - the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit; (3) plagiarism - intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

Academic dishonesty (cheating, collusion, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated in this class. Whenever a student is unsure of whether a particular situation will

be interpreted as academic dishonesty, he or she should ask the instructor for clarification.

Unless otherwise specified, the use of Automated Writing Tools, including chatGPT and similar artificial intelligence (AI) tools, is strictly prohibited in this course, even when properly attributed. The use of automated writing tools is considered plagiarism (as defined by SRRR 9.3) and will be handled in accordance with existing policy.

Any student found to be academically dishonest as defined above and under each assignment will automatically receive a grade of “0” on the assignment.

## **University Policies**

### **Instructor Drop Policy**

An instructor may drop a student at any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the students a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the 8th week of a long 45 hours semester, the 6th week of a 10 week summer term, or the 11th class day of a 4 or 5 week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods, the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date. Refer to the academic calendar and the Registrar's office.

### **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., Clark Student Center 168.

## **College Policies**

### **WEATHER CLOSURE PRACTICES**

Student safety is the number one consideration in regards to travel for bad weather. If it is icy or snowing in your area, e-mail your faculty to explain the situation. Use common sense in regards to travel.

The MSU Nursing Program will follow the MSU campus practices for closure. If the campus closes, classes will go on-line using Zoom via D2L or another platform designated by your professor. For guidance of weather closure practices for MSU campus see guidance via the MSU webpage.

### **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.

### **Campus Carry Rules/Policies**

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

### **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 grade should consult the MSU Texas Undergraduate Catalog.

**Active Shooter**

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage.

*Notice*

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

**A Final Word**

Being a nursing student is different from being a student in many other majors. Your education is no longer about learning things for passing an exam and adding an A to your transcript. You are learning the things you need to know when you are responsible for another person's life. Your nursing license is a statement to the public that you know certain things, and that people can depend on that. You need to practice and learn this material just like you practiced for a choir contest, or a softball tournament, or a piano recital, or maybe learning how to fly an airplane. You can't just know it, you have to know it well - how to do it and why, and be able to explain it to others. The sooner you begin using this kind of studying, the better you will do in all of your nursing classes and throughout your professional life. There is no other way to look at it.

Nursing students have stress, no doubt about that. When you feel stressed and worried about "getting it" when a test is coming up, try to imagine what you need that information for. Think about your patients and your career plans. Take time for self-care, getting enough sleep and exercise, and manage your time wisely – try to be disciplined about your reading and studying.

Organization and time management are keys to success. Keeping a journal helps keep your mind organized, and if you are feeling stressed, writing in the journal sometimes helps you understand why, and what might help you feel better. Making it through nursing school is definitely do-able, but you have to

have the intention of doing whatever it takes to learn the things you have to know to practice nursing safely. Faculty are here to help... if you feel you are having trouble, talking to a faculty member, advisor, or tutor sooner rather than later is really important. We might have some ideas that could be helpful to you!

**The details of this syllabus are subject to amendment or change if needed to assure alliance with University and School of Nursing policies and procedures. Any changes will be made with sufficient notice to students.**