



Course Syllabus: Clinical Decision-making and Clinical

College of Health Sciences and Human Services
NURS 4613 and 4612
Spring 2025

Contact Information

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Office hours: Monday 1000-1200, Wednesday, 1000-1200 and Friday 0900-1000

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Course Description

This course is an application of clinical judgment skills. Emphasis is placed on integrating previously learned concepts and theories with the student in the role of coordinator of care. Critical thinking is applied in resolving actual clinical problems.

Pre-requisites: Family Health Nursing Care II and Clinical, Pediatric Nursing Care and Clinical, and Leadership

Credit hours: Five credit hours with three lecture hours and six clinical hours per week

Course Objectives

AACN Essentials: For further information regarding the AACN Essentials identified for each course objective, refer to [AACN BSN Essentials 2008](#)

DEC Competencies: 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 Board of Nursing DEC's 2021](#)

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:	AACN	DEC
1. Apply the theories and concepts learned throughout the program to clinical situations.	I, VII	I - A, B, C, D II - A, B, C, D, E, F III - A, B, D, E, F IV - C, D, E
2. Utilize problem-solving approaches in recognizing and meeting patient care needs.	I, IX	I - B, C, D II - A, B, D III - C
3. Apply clinical judgment skills in the coordination of patient care.	I, IX	I - A, B II - B, C, D, E, F III - B
4. Implement the nursing role of coordinator of care.	II, VI, VII, VIII, IX	I - B II - B, C, D, E, F III - B, F IV - A, C, D, F
5. Integrate effective communication, research, and teaching-learning principles in coordinating patient care.	II, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX	I - B II - A, B, C, F, G III - B, D, E IV - A, C, D, E, F
6. Evaluate effective and non-effective nursing interventions in providing care to patients.	I, II, IV, VII, VIII, IX	I - B, D II - B, C III - B IV - D

7. Examine the legal, ethical, cultural, economic, and spiritual issues related to the care of patients.	II, VII, VIII, IX	I – A, D II – B, C III – E, F
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Required Textbooks and Supplies

Morton, P.G. & Fontaine, D. K. (2018). *Critical care nursing: A holistic approach (12th ed.)*. Wolters Kluwer. ISBN: 9781975174453

ATI Activities

Wilson School of Nursing ATI Assessment and Review Policy Student

The purpose of ATI testing is to enhance student NCLEX-RN success. The comprehensive ATI review program includes multiple assessments and remediation activities that when combined with the nursing program content assist students to prepare effectively, helping to increase their confidence and familiarity with nursing content.

The comprehensive ATI review program consists of:

Review modules/e-books:

ATI provides Review Modules in eBook formats that include written and video materials in key content areas. Students are encouraged to use these modules to supplement course work and reading. Instructors may assign chapters during a given course and/or as part of active learning/remediation following assessments.

Tutorials to support assessment and remediation process:

ATI Pulse introduces new predictive capabilities that build on existing Pulse functionality by generating dynamic predictions of the likelihood of students to achieve at least a Level 2 proficiency on the first attempt for each Content Mastery Series (CMS) proctored assessment – providing faculty and students with even earlier insights into future performance on the proctored assessments that ultimately are used to predict NCLEX success as well as earlier warning for students not on track to succeed. Predictions of likelihood to succeed will generate as the students complete coursework and practice assignments within each of the CMS areas, before they even attempt the proctored exam. Additionally, ATI Pulse provides prescriptive, data-backed recommended ATI learning activities for students to improve their likelihood of proctored CMS assessment success.

For example, ATI offers unique tutorials that are designed to teach nursing students how to think like a nurse, how to take a nursing assessment, and how to make sound clinical decisions. Nurse Logic is an excellent way to learn the basics of how nurses think and make decisions. Learning System offers practice quizzes in specific nursing content areas that allow students to apply valuable learning tools from Nurse Logic. ATI is committed to increasing student confidence by providing students with experience answering NCLEX-style questions in a variety of quizzing

formats. With Learning System, students can assess their knowledge through pre-set quizzes, build a customized quiz that focuses on specific categories, or test their category- specific comprehension in an adaptive quizzing environment.

Assessments:

The Content Mastery Series Assessments (CMS) provide essential data regarding a student's mastery of concepts in relation to specific nursing content areas, including a series of Targeted Medical Surgical assessments that address individual body systems to provide formative evaluation of content prior to the final medical surgical course. There are practice assessments available for students as well as standardized proctored assessments that may be scheduled during courses. These assessments will help students identify what they know, in addition to areas requiring remediation (called Topics to Review).

Focused reviews/Active learning/Remediation:

ATI Focused Review facilitates the post CMS assessment remediation experience for students. This personalized learning experience uses a student's performance on the CMS practice and proctored assessments to drive focused student learning. Once the student has completed a CMS practice assessment, Focused Review automatically assesses the student's learning gaps and generates a personalized learning experience. Focused Review provides ATI Review Module content in an eBook experience while highlighting the specific elements of content that a student should review. The forms of content include text, image, sound, and video. When the student has completed their first round of remediation (practice assessments only), they can take a post-remediation quiz which provides similar questions on identified content gaps. Upon completion of the quiz, the student can review their knowledge gaps and study updated eBook content. The post-remediation quiz is intended to provide feedback on remediation impact. If the student has completed a CMS proctored assessment, Focused Review provides ATI Review Module content in an eBook experience that is viewed by chapter versus a specific highlighted presentation. There is not a post-remediation quiz generated for proctored assessments.

How to create a new account:

- All students are required to purchase ATI Testing
- Pay for access through the Mustang Marketplace.
- If you are not a current user on www.atitesting.com, you must create a new account to access the student portal or to make a purchase from ATI's online store. Follow the steps on the How to Create a New Account information form to create a new account.

Implementation strategies:

Students are encouraged to do their best work while taking practice and proctored assessments. This will enable true reflection of the student's content mastery providing more value for the students' time and money spent on the program.

Scheduling of activities:

2nd semester:

- Basic Nursing Care:
 - Self-assessment inventory (at program start)
 - Critical-thinking entrance (at program start)
 - Fundamentals Practice A, B, and Proctored Assessments
- Pharmacology:
 - Pharmacology Practice A, B, and Proctored Assessment

3rd semester:

- Family Health Nursing Care I:
 - Nutrition Practice A, B, and Proctored Assessment
- Mental Health Nursing:
 - Mental Health Practice A, B, and Proctored Assessment

4th semester:

- Family Health Nursing Care II:
 - Adult Med-Surg Practice A, B, and Proctored Assessment
- Pediatric Nursing Care:
 - Nursing Care of Children Practice A, B, and Proctored Assessment
- Leadership:
 - Leadership Practice A, B, and Proctored Assessment

5th semester:

- Nursing the Childbearing Family:
 - Maternal and Newborn Practice A, B, and Proctored Assessment
- Community Health Nursing Care:
 - Community Health Practice A, B, and Proctored Assessment
- Clinical Decision-making:
 - Critical Thinking Exit
 - Comprehensive Practice A, B, and Comprehensive Predictor Assessment

Remediation:

Purpose:

To provide additional student learning opportunities related to clinical judgment and safe nursing practice. Students can benefit from remediation activities,

resulting in improved student learning outcomes (SLOs).

Assessments:

Self-Assessment Inventory and Critical Thinking Entrance Assessments are required at the beginning of the curriculum.

- Complete Nurse Logic Modules early in the program and repeat as needed throughout the program based on performance. (Beginning and Advanced student levels).
 - Knowledge and Clinical Judgment
 - Nursing Concepts
 - Priority-Setting Frameworks
 - Testing and Remediation
- Complete Learning Systems Quiz on content under Tutorials Tab prior to taking Practice Assessments. Take as often as needed as it is a tutorial. Encourage students to use the "Hint" button to assist with deciphering questions and using critical thinking skills.

Practice assessments:

- Practice Assessment A and B
 - Repeat the practice tests as many times as needed with a 24 hour wait period between attempts to score a 90% or greater within the timeframe the test is open.
 - A minimum of one week will be provided to complete each practice assessment.
 - To strengthen the review method, students should understand the rationales for each distracter. It is recommended that students review 5-15 minutes at a time with ample time given to review each of the rationales. When the student logs in again, the exam will continue from where the student had stopped previously.

Proctored assessments:

- Complete Content Mastery Proctored Assessment in a controlled environment following the proctored guidelines set forth by ATI.
 - Proctored assessments proficiency level definitions:
 - Level 3 – advanced proficiency
 - Level 2 – proficiency
 - Level 1 - partial proficiency
 - Level 0 – does not yet demonstrate proficiency
- Following the assessment, the student will use the ATI Focused Review to complete the Three Critical Points Worksheet (see Appendix A). Students are encouraged to use textbooks, review books with videos, animations, graphics, and tutorials for remediation.

- Students who achieve a level 3 must complete the Three Critical Points worksheet on three missed topics
- Students who achieve a level 2 must complete the Three Critical Points worksheet on six missed topics
- If the student receives a level 0 or 1 the student must complete the Three Critical Points worksheet on each topic missed
- Upload the Three Critical Points Worksheet into the assigned course drop box.
- In the final semester, students will take the Comprehensive Predictor
 - Following the Comprehensive Predictor, the student will use the ATI Focused Review to complete the Three Critical Points Worksheet.
 - Students who achieve > 95% predictability of passing must complete the Three Critical Points worksheet on three missed topics
 - Students who achieve > 90% predictability of passing must complete the Three Critical Points worksheet on six missed topics
 - If the student receives < 85% predictability of passing, the student must complete the Three Critical Points worksheet on each topic missed
- Students scoring below a level 2 on any of the content mastery proctored assessments or less than 90% predictability on the Comprehensive Predictor will be required to retake the proctored exam after the remediation is complete.
 - The retake will be scheduled at least 48 hours after the initial attempt
 - The higher of the two proctored exam grades will be placed in the gradebook

Point Assignment:

1. Maximum grade possible is 10/10 = 100%
2. Grade represents no more than 10% of the overall course grade
3. Grading is calculated as such:
 - Practice Assessment A score $\geq$ to 90%: 1 point
 - Practice Assessment B score $\geq$ to 90%: 1 point
 - Standardized proctored assessment:
 - Level 3 = 4 points
 - Level 2 = 3 points
 - Level 1 = 1 point
 - Below level 1 = 0 points
 - If student scores < Level 2 on first attempt, a retake will be required. The higher of the two scores will be placed in the gradebook.
 - Standardized proctored assessment remediation:

- Earned level 3: Three Critical Points worksheet on three missed topics. All columns must be complete for credit = 4 points
 - Earned level 2: Three Critical Points worksheet on six missed topics. All columns must be complete for credit = 4 points
 - Earned level 1: Three Critical Points worksheet on every topic missed. All columns must be complete for credit = 4 points
 - Earned less than a level 1: Three Critical Points worksheet on every topic missed. All columns must be complete for credit = 4 points
4. ATI points will be added to final grade once the student has met the minimal exam average requirement.
 5. Late work policies do not pertain to ATI

Point Assignment for Comprehensive Predictor:

1. Maximum grade possible is 10/10 = 100%
2. Grade represents 10% of the overall course grade
3. Grading is calculated as follows:
 - Practice Assessment A score $\geq$ to 90%: 1 point
 - Practice Assessment B score $\geq$ to 90%: 1 point
 - Comprehensive Predictor comprehensive assessment:
 - 95% or above Passing predictability = 4 points
 - 90% or above Passing predictability = 3 points
 - 85% or above Passing predictability = 1 point
 - 84% or below = 0 points
 - If student scores $< 90\%$ on first attempt, a retake will be required. The higher of the two scores will be placed in the gradebook.
 - Comprehensive Predictor remediation:
 - Earned 95% or above: Three Critical Points worksheet on three missed topics. All columns must be complete for credit = 4 points
 - 90% or above: Three Critical Points worksheet on six missed topics. All columns must be complete for credit = 4 points
 - 85% or above: Three Critical Points worksheet on every topic missed. All columns must be complete for credit = 4 points
 - 84% or below: Three Critical Points worksheet on every topic missed. All columns must be complete for credit = 4 points
4. Students scoring less than 90% will meet with faculty to go over remediation topics.

5. ATI points will be added to final grade once the student has met the minimal exam average requirement
6. Late work policies do not pertain to ATI

Lippincott DocuCare. Purchase website is
lippincottdirect.lww.com/NursingEducation-MidwesternStateUniversityWichitaFalls-Fall2025

DocuCare Class codes: Section 101 - 1QFMGQUK6AGD - Prof Platt
Section 102- 1QFMHDSUJPM5 – Dr. Machado

Top Hat: We will be using Tophat as our presentation format during class. You will need to log into tophat.com and register with our class using the following information and class code.

Clinical Decision Making Fall 2025 – Join: 929537

Nursing Central.-

Exemplify for ExamSoft access

Laptop computer or computer tablet

Learning Experiences

Students are expected to be self-directed in the acquisition of basic nursing knowledge. Learning activities available to students include but are not limited to:

1. Course activities (NURS 4613): Information relevant to each unit of study will be presented prior to and in class. Students should come to class prepared to participate using Nursing Central resources.
2. Clinical (NURS 4612): A total of 90 clinical hours will be completed.
3. Readings (NURS 4613 and 4612): Assigned readings are essential for each unit of study.
4. Desire 2 Learn (D2L) supplement: Is available as a communication tool. Students are expected to check their D2L course for course announcements each 24 hours.
5. Midwestern State University BSN Handbook: Is available from the MSU homepage. Refer to: [BSN Student Handbook](#)

MSU Student Handbook

Refer to: [MSU Student Handbook](#)

Grading

Table 1: Course Grade

*Assignments	Percentage
**Unit Exams (4 exams each worth 15% of total grade)	60
***Presentation (group assignment)	10
ATI Testing	10
***Clinical Assignments – 1 Docucare assignment, 1 Assessment Evaluation, 1 Clinical Reasoning OSCE, 1 Simulation experiences and 5 Hospital experiences	15
***Course Activities/class participation	5
Total	100

Table 2: Course Grade Calculation

*The final course grade will be calculated in the following manner:
*There will be no rounding of grades except as necessary to accommodate the electronic testing and grade book limitations.
**Students must score at least a 74% average on the four unit exams This is called the exam average. Students who pass clinical but do not earn at least a 74% average for the exam average will receive the exam average as the course and clinical grade.
***Students who earn at least a 74% average on the exam average and pass clinical will have the exams, presentation, clinical documentation, and course activities grades calculated as weighted in the table above as the course and clinical grade.
Students who fail clinical will receive an "F" as the course and clinical grade.
Classroom and clinical performances (on campus, in the Skills lab, in the Simulation Center and/or patient clinical experiences) will be evaluated. Students are expected to pass both and clinical and classroom components of the course. Failure in either one will constitute failure in the course.
Clinical Requirement You are required to score at least a 85% clinical grade average within the course. The clinical grade average will be a component of your course grade.

**Less than 85% clinical grade average, results in a failure of the course.
Students who fail clinical will receive an “F” as the course and clinical grade.**

Table 3: Grading Scale

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	89-80
C	74-79
D	65-73
F	Less than 65

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/>).

Course Activities

1. Throughout the semester, course activity points are offered. Students who complete the assignments when offered, earn the points.
2. Some of the course activity points are provided through the Top Hat platform.
3. Course lectures will be provided through the Top Hat platform and include course activities within them.
4. There are no make-up assignments for course activities.
5. The average of the points will be used as the course activities grade in the calculation of the grade after a 74% exam average is obtained on the four objective exams.

Clinical Assignments

1. Each student will complete one DocuCare Assignment.
2. Each assignment is completed within DocuCare.
3. Each student will upload a photo or scanned copy of the completed Report Form into the Dropbox for that assignment on D2L. This activates that folder enabling the clinical instructor to grade the assignment.
4. Each assignment will be graded using the DocuCare Assignment Grading Rubric.
5. The due dates for the assignments are located on the course calendar.
6. For each day a clinical assignment is late without approval from the clinical instructor, five points will be deducted from the overall grade. This means if the student submits the assignment at 0000 on the day after it is due to 2359 the day after it is due, 5 points will be deducted. Submission of 0000 through 2359 the following days will each receive a 5-point deduction.
7. Each student will have two simulation experiences. Failure to score greater than 85% may result in simulation failure and may require the student to complete remediation.
8. Each student will have five hospital clinical experiences plus one cardiac Cath lab experience. Each clinical patient experience will be graded utilizing the Clinical Decision-Making Clinical Evaluation Tool.

9. Clinical Requirement

You are required to score at least a 85% clinical grade average within the course. The clinical grade average will be a component of your course grade.

Less than 85% clinical grade average, results in a failure of the course. Students who fail clinical will receive an "F" as the course and clinical grade.

Below are the following clinical assignments: DocuCare, simulation, assessment evaluation, clinical reasoning OSCE and hospital patient experiences.

Presentation

1. Students will work in groups of 3-4 to complete a presentation assignment.

2. Each assignment will be graded using the Presentation Assignment Grading Rubric.

5. Each group is to pick one of these topics:

- a. Diversity (Ethnicity/Racial/Sexual/Gender) in Nursing
- b. Healthy Workplace Environment
- c. Post-BSN Education
- e. BSN Entrepreneurship
- f. Nursing Self-care when Off-duty
- g. Remote Work in Nursing
- h. Travel Nursing
- i. Professionalism in Nursing
- j. Career Building in Nursing
- k. Nursing burnout prevention
- l. Growing use of AI in nursing

There will be no duplication of topics.

6. The presentation is to be no longer than 20 slides with 20 seconds of narration per slide (Pecha Kucha style).

7. The presentation is to present the topic in a manner that promotes nursing.

8. The slides are to only have graphics, no words unless part of the graphic (i.e. memes are allowed, but bullet points are not), all words must be spoken. The graphics must enhance the presentation.

9. Each student is to reply to at least two group's presentations. The replies must be substantive and positive in tone and content. These points will be graded as 20 points each reply if substantive and positive in tone and content, 14 if substantive and not negative, 8 if positive, but not substantive, and 0 if missing or negative.

10. The due dates for the presentation and the replies is on the course calendar. Presentation due Fri., Nov. 28 By 2359 with reply to two groups, Monday, Dec 1 by 2359.

11. For each day the assignment is late without approval from the instructor, five points will be deducted from the overall grade. This means if the group submits the assignment after 2359 on the day it is due to 2358 the day after it is due, 5 points will be deducted. Submission after 2359 through 2358 the following days will each receive a 5-point deduction.

Exams

1. Exam Soft requires loading Examplify application for taking course exams. Exam Soft is purchased online each semester.
2. The desks in CE 101 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 exam will be comprised of 45 multiple-choice questions and 5 Math for Nurses questions. Exams will be administered on primarily on Fridays from 1300- 1440 in CE 101. The dates are 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 Examplify. 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.
6. If a student misses any exam, the student may take the Make-up Exam scheduled on the course calendar at the end of the semester. The Make-up Exam is located in the CE 4th floor nursing conference room. The exam will be comprehensive of the content throughout the course.

Exam Administration Instructions

1. Answer each of the 50 questions.
2. You have 90 minutes to complete the exam and the exam will timeout after 90 minutes.
3. The exam will not have backward navigation capability.
4. Using resources other than your own memory will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam.
5. Taking exam questions from the classroom will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam.
6. Presence of a device capable of making a call, texting, or recording either text or voice in the classroom during the testing period will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam whether the device was on or off and whether you had submitted the exam.

7. Grades will be sent with rationales for the questions missed after item analysis has been performed.
8. Upload the exam prior to leaving the classroom.
9. Close your computer prior to leaving the classroom.
10. Failure to return the scrap paper with your name on it prior to leaving the classroom will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam.
11. You may not leave exam area except for an emergency and you may be accompanied by a faculty member.

Missed Exams

Should the student be absent from an exam, it is the student's responsibility to notify the course coordinator at least two hours prior to the exam or as soon as possible if an emergency is the cause of missing the exam. Students may make-up exams on the make-up exam session as documented on the course calendar.

Failure to comply with this policy will result in a zero for the exam(s) missed. Any make-up exam may be different from the original exam and may include multiple choice, essay, short answer, true and false, and/or matching questions.

Nursing Program Failure Policy

1. Students must meet all course requirements or a grade of F will be assigned.
2. Students are expected to pass both clinical and classroom components of the course. Failure in either clinical or classroom will result in failure in both. Clinical failure results in a course and clinical grade of F. Classroom failure results in the grade earned in the classroom for both course and clinical.
3. A student who withdraws/drops or receives a D or an F in two nursing courses must seek reentry to the nursing program to be eligible to continue in the program.
4. The faculty reserves the right to recommend to the School of Nursing Chair and College of Human Services and Health Sciences withdrawal of a student from the nursing program for health, legal, or academic reasons, particularly if client care is jeopardized. In addition, the student must perform within the ANA Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics.

University Policies

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational

programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to page 24 at <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>.

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.

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

Instructor Drop

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 page 27 at <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>.

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter Policy

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: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

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 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.

Clinical Requirements

Clinical Hours Breakdown

Clinical Orientation

2.5 hours

Simulation Experiences

Assessment Check-off with IV medication administration

2-hour preparation

30 min assessment

15-minute evaluation

Simulation #1

2-hour preparation

3-hours simulation

5-hours documentation

Clinical Reasoning

OSCE

2.5-hours

preparation

3-hours

assessment

45 min evaluation

Direct Patient Care

Five 12-hour shifts

One 8- hour cath

lab experience

Evaluation

Two 30 minute evaluations (mid-term and end-of-semester)

Clinical Compliance Requirements

Students are required to be compliant with immunizations, health insurance, liability insurance, and CPR via Castlebranch for the entire semester. Failure to maintain compliance will result in academic withdrawal from the course.

Students must complete all 90 clinical hours. This means students must complete all the clinical experiences. Failure to complete these hours will result in failure of the clinical component of the course.

Students are required to return to Prof. Platt at CE 440M the United Regional name badge, proximity card, and parking placard. Failure to return these items will result in failure of the clinical component of the course. The procedure for returning these items are:

1. After the last day of clinicals, place the items in one of the bags/envelopes provided in a wire basket on the wall outside the office of CE 440M.
2. By the last day of classes, place the bag/envelope containing the items back into the wire basket on the wall located outside of the office of CE 440M.

Simulation experiences

1. Students are to wear the approved dress code attire and bring a pen, paper, watch with second hand, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, exam gloves, lab pack supplies, penlight and tape measure.
2. The student is to notify the Simulation Center prior to the experience if the student needs to cancel an appointment or reschedule the experience.
3. Rescheduling of simulation experiences is on an available basis. Should there be no option for the student to complete the experience, then the student will need to seek the assistance of the clinical instructor to make-up the clinical hours.
4. Reasons for non-approval of a simulation absence are:
 - a. Failure to notify the simulation lab prior to being absent.
 - b. Being absent for a reason other than personal illness or family or personal emergency situation.
 - c. Failure to show documentation of personal illness or family or personal emergency situation.

Patient-care experiences

1. Each student is scheduled for five patient-care experiences with a preceptor from the agency.
2. Students are to report to the clinical agency by 0630 for day shift and 1830 for night shift, wearing the approved dress code attire and in possession of the required supplies (stethoscope, penlight, watch with a second hand, and a pen).
3. A thirty-minute lunch time will be provided during these time. Students may bring their lunch or purchase one at the clinical facility.
4. Absences from the patient care clinicals must be approved by the clinical instructor. The student must inform the clinical instructor before being absent from the clinical experience. The student must complete an absence form and submit it to the clinical instructor before rescheduling missed clinicals. If the instructor does not approve the absence, the student will not have an opportunity to reschedule the absence and will fail the clinical component of the course.
5. Reasons for non-approval of a clinical absence are:
 - a. Failure to notify the instructor prior to being absent.
 - b. Being absent for a reason other than personal illness or family or personal emergency situation.

- c. Failure to show documentation of personal illness or family or personal emergency situation.
6. The student is to complete an evaluation of the preceptor following each clinical experience and attach it within one week to the dropbox in Desire 2 Learn.

Infractions Constituting Clinical Failure

Failure of the clinical component of the course occurs when the student receives an unsatisfactory rating in any area of the evaluation tool or does not complete all 90 hours of clinical. Absences will be rescheduled at the discretion of the course coordinator.

Clinical is defined as any activity that earns the student clinical hours and includes but is not limited to patient care experiences, simulation experiences, skill practice and testing sessions, orientations, and clinical meetings.

Certain behaviors result in an unsatisfactory rating in the professional behavior section of the evaluation rubric or some form of remediation as deemed appropriate by the course faculty.

Students who receive five or more infractions within the program are no longer eligible to progress in the program. Students may repeal the decision to be removed from the program by submitting to the Student Affairs Committee a paper that explains why they should be allowed to remain in the program. The decision of the committee is final.

Three incidents of infractions to the standard of professional behavior to include but not limited to:

- Arriving to a clinical experience without bringing a completed pre-clinical assignment or the pre-simulation assignment even if allowed to stay in the clinical
- Not conforming to the dress code even if allowed to stay in the clinical
- Not bringing appropriate supplies to the clinical experience even if allowed to stay in the clinical
- Unprofessional/inappropriate language or gestures
- Unprofessional/inappropriate behavior such as disrespectful behavior, chewing gum, using tobacco products in non-smoking areas, disruptive behavior, or failure to comply with a written or verbal instruction
- Arriving late to any clinical site even if allowed to stay in the clinical
- Non-compliance with the policy to notify the instructor and the agency of a clinical absence prior to the absence or as soon as possible if immediate notification is not possible
- Non-compliance with the policy to receive written prior approval before attending the clinical and/or the policy to notify the clinical instructor of absences prior to missing the clinical or as soon as the student realizes

he/she must leave the clinical experience

- Leaving the premises without permission from the clinical instructor
- Failure to complete assignments by the due dates
- Failure to return from meals or breaks at the assigned time
- Use of a cell phone for calling, texting, e-mailing, or receiving calls, texts, or e-mails in the clinical area unless given permission by the clinical instructor

Two incidents of infractions to the standard of professional behavior to include but not limited to:

- Disregarding patient confidentiality without malice or intent to disclose
- Patient negligence that does not result in patient injury
- An error in care that does not result in patient injury
- Cheating, collusion, plagiarism, or stealing. Cheating/collusion/plagiarism - cheating means intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise; collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit; plagiarism means intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise
- Committing two infractions from the list above as well as one in this list

Infractions to the standard of professional behavior that results in immediate failure of the clinical component of the course to include but not limited to:

- Administering medications or implementing sterile or invasive procedures without the direct supervision of a faculty member or preceptor
- Failing to check two patient identifiers prior to administering medications or implementing sterile or invasive procedures
- Failing to maintain compliance with clinical requirements
- An error in care or patient negligence that harms a patient
- Falsification, omissions or lying
- Intentionally revealing confidential information
- Placing self, staff, or patient at risk of harm due to abandonment of duties and/or sleeping during clinical experiences
- Failure to report a patient care error or incident
- Physical or verbal abuse of patients, patient's family members, faculty or staff
- Testing positive for illicit drugs or alcohol results in immediate ineligibility to continue in the program

Dress Code

The goal of the dress code is to present a professional appearance that does not compromise communication, safety, or infection control. Appearance that

presents less than a professional appearance will not be allowed.

Clinical Uniform

- School uniform of matching maroon pants or skirt and maroon tunic top is the required uniform.
- Undershirts, if worn should be plain (solid, no adornments or logos, no patterns) and white, black, gray, or maroon that matches the uniform.
- Pants cannot touch the floor and must be hemmed properly. Pants cannot have a cuffed hem (no joggers).
- When sitting down, bending over or squatting down, or raising arms there can be no gap at the waist between the uniform pant and the top showing skin or underwear.
- No cleavage can be showing.
- Uniform must be well-laundered, without wrinkles, beyond what occurs during typical wear, and fit appropriately.
- Skirts must be knee length or longer, but may not touch the floor, must be properly hemmed and allow for ease of movement.
- Clean and closed toe and heel shoes that are black, gray, white, or maroon that matches the uniform are to be worn.
- Socks and hosiery must match either skin color, uniform or shoes.
- Proper MSU identification (MSU or approved clinical agency name tag and MSU patch). The MSU patch is obtainable at the bookstore and is to be sewn on left sleeve, centered and 1" from shoulder seam.
- MSU nametag must contain the name of the university, name of the student, designation of student, and a photograph of the student. The nametag is obtained through Card Services at the Clark Student Center.
- If a student desires a cover, he/she may wear a matching maroon scrub jacket with the appropriate name tag and MSU patch sewn on left sleeve, centered and 1" from shoulder seam.
- Hair must be self-contained and unadorned and must be a natural hair color. Any containing articles such as head wraps, barrettes, bands, or clips must be plain (solid, no jewels, adornments, patterns, or logos) and same color as hair, or white, black, gray, silver, gold, or maroon that matches the uniform.
- Hair may not fall forward past shoulder/neck area or fall over eyes when leaning over at the waist.
- Sideburns, beards, and mustaches must be clean and neatly trimmed.
- Hats or caps are not allowed.
- Short natural and clean fingernails are required. Nail enhancements are not allowed to include polish, dips, tips, overlays, acrylics, or gels. Tips of nails may not be seen when looking at the hands from the palm side up.
- Hygiene must include being clean without fragrances or strong odors.
- No jewelry other than a plain wedding ring (band) and a watch with an analog second hand are allowed.
- Visible body piercings may not contain any jewelry, gauges or spacers.
- If a clinical requires "professional dress" other than the Nursing Uniform, the student will be asked to wear a maroon polo shirt and pants or a skirt that is black, gray, khaki, or maroon that matches the maroon polo shirt with the

appropriate name tag.

- Clinical agencies retain the right to refuse access to any student whose appearance is deemed inappropriate. For this reason, visible tattoos should not contain symbols, drawings or wording likely to be deemed offensive.
- The nursing uniform may not be worn when working outside of clinical experiences.

COVID-19 Policies

All students will need to monitor their health and if they believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 or are exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19, they will need to self-report to their clinical instructor.

Students at clinical facilities will be required to observe any personal protective equipment (PPE) and vaccination policies of the facility. Students unable or unwilling to comply may request relocation to another facility subject to the above conditions. Relocation is never guaranteed, and students unable to be relocated will have to withdraw from the clinical course.

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. Clinicals will be cancelled if the MSU campus is closed.

Due to the start of inpatient clinical shifts at 0630 to 0645, faculty will post information or make the call for clinical cancellations via D2L, "News Items". For guidance of weather closure practices for MSU campus see guidance via the MSU webpage.

THIS POLICY AND THE CONTENT OF THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO REVISION AT ANY TIME.

The Course Calendar is provided on D2L as a separate document.