



Course Syllabus: Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice
College of Robert D. & Carol Gunn College of Health Sciences & Human
Services

NURS 3743 DX1
Summer II 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Stacey J. Machado, DNP, MS, RN

Office: Centennial Hall 440G & Remote

Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00am – 1:00pm (remote)

Office Phone: (940) 397 – 4046

Cell Phone: 580 – 583-5457 (preferred)

E-mail: stacey.machado@msutexas.edu

Course Description

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1. This course focuses on qualitative, quantitative and mixed method research which serves to compare and evaluate evidence-based practice and healthcare in clinical practice.
2. The course will demonstrate appropriate utilization of research findings to monitor patient-centered care, quality improvement, safety, and leadership outcomes.
3. The course is designed to identify critical appraisal skills that assist nurses to become competent research consumers.
4. AACN Essentials: For further information regarding the AACN Essentials identified for each course objective, refer to:
<https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/0/PDFs/Publications/Essentials 2021.pdf>

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the role of healthcare and, specifically, nursing research for nursing and evidence-based practice (AACN II, III).
2. Discuss ethics and legal precepts related to research, scholarship, research subjects, and processes (AACN II, III).
3. Compare and contrast characteristics, usage and contributions of qualitative, quantitative, and multiple design research methods (AACN III).
4. Demonstrate beginning critical reasoning and analysis of research appraisal as a consumer of research to promote safety in nursing and health care services (AACN III).
5. Identify systems for determining validity and reliability of research, and cause and effect relationships (AACN III).
6. Identify evidence-based research protocols to monitor nurse-sensitive client care indicators and outcomes (AACN II, III).
7. Discuss future directions significant to and for nursing research as a component of professionalism (AACN II, III).
8. Acknowledge role in protection of human subjects in the conduct of (AACN III, IX).
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic elements of the research process (AACN III, IX).
10. Identify principles and models of evidence-based practice (AACN III, IX).
11. Explain the interrelationship among theory, practice, and research (AACN I, III, IX).
12. Identify practice discrepancies between identified standards and practice that may adversely impact patient (AACN II, III, IX).

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required textbook

Schmidt, N.A.& Brown, J.M. (2021). *Evidence-based practice for nurses: Appraisal and application of research*. Burlington, M.A.: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 978-1-284-05330-2.

American Psychological Association (2020). Publication Manual of the

American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Washington D.C.

Student Handbook

Refer to: Student Handbook 2024-25 available on MSU [website](#)

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 individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

****Use of AI Tools:****

The use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, QuillBot) is not permitted for any assignment unless explicitly approved. All work must reflect original student thought. Violations may be treated as academic dishonesty.

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment –

Assignments	Points
EBP Essay	20%
Searching Assignment	20%
Discussion questions (3 Message Board assignments)	20%
Evidence Review Presentation	35%
Peer review of EBP	5%
Total Points	100%

Table 2: Total points for final grade. **There will be no rounding of final 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 at least 74% is required to pass this course. **No rounding of final grades per the WSON handbook.** 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 prefers students 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.

Discussion Board

You must post a substantive response to each of the required questions. A substantive response is constructive and adds value to the weekly discussions. Substantive responses should be at least 150 words in length. Your responses need to reflect critical thought and demonstrate an understanding of the relevant concepts. All factual knowledge must be supported with appropriate APA citation of source. Response to the discussion board questions must be posted by 10:59 PM Central Standard Time on or before the due date on the Discussion Board section in the appropriate Discussion Question thread as stated in the course outline. **Discussion**

responses (initial) posted more than 2 days late and or in the wrong thread will not be accepted. Peer response posts will not be accepted late.

Late initial postings will receive a 10-point deduction for each day late and will not be accepted if posted more than 2 days late. It is the responsibility of the student to post the assignment on the correct thread by 10:59 PM Central Standard Time on or prior to the due date.

Participation in the classroom discussion is required. In addition to posting your responses to the discussion questions you must post a substantive comment on at least two of your classmate's posts. This post may be made anytime during the week but must be made prior to the close of the week before the due date and time. Each peer response must have at least one accompanying APA citation.

Peer Posts made after the due date and time of the week will not be accepted for credit.

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 10-point deduction for each day they are late.

Important Dates

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" July 22nd, 2026

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 a 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 scheduled 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 instructor will assign a grade of WF or F the 6th week of a 10-week summer term. After this time, the grade will be an F. 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 long 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 D or 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.

All submissions earning a Turn-it In Similarity score above 20% will receive a 30-point deduction. Students may submit assignments as many times as needed before the due/date and time to review and revise as needed to earn a Turn-it In Similarity score at or less

than 20%. Only the last submission before the due date and time will be graded.

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) exist 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., Clark Student Center 168.

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

Individual course grades are not allowed to be appealed. Students who wish to appeal a Final overall 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 Calendar can be found on the following page.

Course Calendar

Week	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 Course Orientation and Building an evidence-based nursing practices, legal and ethical issues, and overview of various types of research.	Evidence-based nursing practice Legal and ethical issues Overview of various types of research 1. What is evidence-based practice? 2. What is nursing research? 3. How has nursing evolved as a science? 4. Keeping it ethical. 5. Challenges for the future Readings Schmidt & Brown Chapter 1 pages 1 to 41. Documents found in Resources Week One in D2L.	Evidence-based Nursing Practice Essay due Sunday, 10:59PM CST.
Week	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 2 Clinical issues and questions (PICOT) and searching for the evidence.	Identifying research questions 1. How clinical problems guide research questions. 2. Developing hypotheses 3. Formulating EBP questions 4. Keeping it ethical Readings Schmidt & Brown Chapter 3 pages 71 to 93. Schmidt & Brown Chapter 4 pages 94 to 130. Documents found in Resources Week two in D2L.	Discussion for week 2 Initial discussion post and PICO worksheet due by Friday, 10:59PM CST. The 2 responses to peer posts are due by Sunday, 10:59PM CST.

Week	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 3 Critical appraisal of evidence, Quantitative designs, Qualitative design	Key principles of qualitative designs 1. Chart the course 2. What is validity? 3. Categorizing designs according to time 4. Keeping it ethical Quantitative designs: Using numbers to provide evidence 1. Experimental designs 2. Quasi-experimental designs 3. Non-experimental designs 4. Specific uses for quantitative designs 5. Keeping it ethical Readings Schmidt & Brown Chapter 6, 7, and 9. Documents found in Resources Week three in D2L.	Searching Assignment Due in Assignments Sunday by 10:59 PM CST.
Week	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 4 Outcomes and EBP, Evaluation and Essential Steps, and Pulling it all together. Drawing conclusions from an evidence review and implementation of a practice change	Weighing in on the Evidence 1. Deciding what to do 2. Appraising the evidence 3. Clinical practice guidelines: Moving ratings and recommendations into practice Transitioning evidence to practice 1. Evidence-based practice models to overcome barriers 2. Creating change	Discussion for week 4 due by Friday, 10:59PM CST. The 2 responses to peer posts are due by Sunday, 10:59PM CST.

	3. Keeping it ethical Readings Schmidt & Brown Chapter 15 and 16. Documents found in Resources Week four in D2L	
Week	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 5 Creating an environment for EBP	Sharing insight with others 1. Dissemination 2. The 3 Ps of dissemination 3. Using technology to disseminate knowledge 4. Making the most of conference 5. Keeping it ethical Readings Schmidt & Brown Chapter 19 Documents found in Resources Week five in D2L	Due Wednesday by 10:59 PM CST Upload your Presentation to the Message Board and upload your abstract and references to the assignment section Due Wednesday by 10:59 PM CST. Reply to three (3) peers letting them know you will be evaluating their presentation. Due Friday by 10:59 PM CST Upload the PRESENTATION GRADING CRITERIA sheet into the Message Board thread of the three (3) students you have chosen to grade and submit the Student Presentations Reviewed sheet into the assignment section. Due Friday by 10:59 PM CST. A reflective post in the message board.