



RNSG 1331-101C3
Principles of Clinical Decision-Making
Fall 2025
0800-1100 Wednesday

Instructor Information:

Course Facilitator:

Lauren McElyea, MSN, RN
Email: lmelyea@com.edu
Office 225-37, 409-933-8458

Co-Faculty:

Karee Carter, MSN, RN
Email: kcarter@com.edu
Office 225- , 409-933-8646

Office hours and location:

Office 225-37

Please email to schedule a time between these time frames:

Mondays: (TEAMS appointments available)

Tuesdays: 1400-1600

Wednesdays: 1300-1600

Thursdays: 1300-1500

Required Textbook/Materials:

Elsevier.CS:ESSENTIALS (ECM).ISBN:9780323389471

Elsevier.BOC:Lilley Phrm&Ng Prc SP (Sherpath) Phrm eC10.ISBN:9780323876315.

EAQ Fundamentals. 10th Edition. ISBN: 9780323758185.

Elsevier. (2021).

Potter, P., & Perry, A. (2021). *Fundamentals of nursing* (11th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: F. A. Davis Company. [Print] ISBN: 978-0323677721 or

Elsevier.BOC:SP Fund Potter Fund eCm11.ISBN:9780323879828

Mulholland, J., Turner, S. (2019). *The nurse, the math, the meds: drug calculations and dimensional analysis* (4th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Mosby

Silvestri & Silvestri. Strategies for Student Success on the Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) Test Items. ISBN:9780323872294.

Harding, M., & Hagler, D. (2025) Conceptual Nursing Care Planning (2 ed.). St. Louis, MS: ISBN: 9780443115899. Elsevier

Sim Chart 9781455711703. Elsevier

Nurse Think Student Success Book Bundle:

Bring a laptop to each class session for quizzes and assignments.

Course Description:

Examination of selected principles related to the continued development of the professional nurse as a provider of patient-centered care, patient safety advocate, member of health care team, and member of the profession. Emphasis on clinical decision-making for clients in medical-surgical settings experiencing health problems involving fluid and electrolytes, perioperative care, pain, respiratory disorders, peripheral vascular disorders, immunologic disorders, and infectious disorders. Discuss knowledge, judgment, skills, and professional values within a legal/ethical framework. This course lends itself to either a blocked or integrated approach. (Credit 3: Lecture 3, Lab 0, 48 Contact Hours)

Course requirements:

1. **Concept Map (2):** Demonstrate critical thinking utilizing a systematic framework to apply the roles of the professional nurse when providing patient care for selected health problems.
2. **In-Class Assignments:** Assess incremental knowledge as the roles of the professional Nurse apply to patient-centered care for patients and their families with selected health problems.
3. **Clinical Essentials/Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing/Evolve Lessons:** Assess the application of pathophysiology, clinical management, and nursing processes for patients and their families experiencing selected health problems.
4. **Pharmacology Modules:** These modules assess basic knowledge of pharmacology related to the clinical management of patients and their families with selected health problems.
5. **Standardized Benchmark Exam:** the HESI Fundamentals Benchmark Exam is a standardized assessment designed to evaluate a student's mastery of foundational nursing concepts, clinical judgment, and critical thinking skills. This exam measures competency in essential areas such as patient safety, health promotion, basic nursing care, communication, and the nursing process. Administered as part of the Fundamentals course, the benchmark provides objective data on student performance, identifies areas for improvement, and supports preparation for progression within the nursing program and future success on the NCLEX-RN.
6. **Clinical Judgment Measurement Model Tool Assignment (CJMM):** The Clinical Judgment Measurement Model (CJMM) Tool Assignment is a structured case study-based evaluation designed to assess nursing students' critical thinking, clinical judgment, and decision-making skills. Using realistic patient scenario, students apply the CJMM framework to recognize and analyze cues, prioritize hypotheses, generate evidence-based solutions, take appropriate actions, and evaluate outcomes. The assignment integrates NCLEX Client Needs categories, QSEN competencies, and SBAR communication, fostering the ability to synthesize patient information, collaborate effectively, and provide safe, patient-centered care. Responses are graded using standardized rubric to ensure consistency, support professional growth, and prepare students for real-world clinical practice and NCLEX success

7. Group Community-based Nursing Project: This assignment evaluates students' ability to apply course concepts to community-based health issues, demonstrating clinical judgment, evidence-based decision-making, and effective patient education. By presenting their research in a professional conference-style format, students integrate knowledge, skills, and judgment as a provider of patient-centered care, patient safety advocates, and collaborative member of the health care team.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Grading Scale:

A= 90-100

B= 80-

89.99

C= 75-

79.99*

D= 60-

74.99

F= <60

*A minimum final grade of "C" is required to pass this score

Grade Calculation

All assignments, including pass/fail, must be submitted to pass the course. All grades must total 75% average to pass the class. See Grade Determination & Calculation in the Nursing Student Handbook.

Assignment	%
Concept Map 1	10%
Concept Map 2	10%
Clinical Essentials	10%
Evolve EAQ quizzes/Lessons	15%
CJMM Assignment	20%
Pharmacology Modules	15%
Standardized Benchmark	10%
Group project	10%
Total	100%

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: See Late Assignments Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

Attendance Policy:

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statements requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Provide Safe and Effective Physiological Care Perform accurate patient assessments, apply principles of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, implement evidence-based interventions, and evaluate outcomes to maintain physiological integrity in diverse healthcare settings.	EPSLO #1	Concept Maps Clinical Essentials Pharmacology Modules HESI benchmark CJMM assignment
2. Deliver Culturally and Spiritually Respectful Care Incorporate patients' cultural, ethnic, and spiritual preferences into individualized care plans across the lifespan.	EPSLO #2	Concept maps In-class Assignments Group community project CJMM assignment
3. Communicate and Collaborate Professionally Use therapeutic communication, accurate documentation, and interprofessional collaboration to coordinate, advocate for, and manage safe patient care.	EPSLO #3	In-Class Assignments Clinical Judgment Measurement Model Tool Assignment Group Community-based Nursing Project
4. Apply Clinical Judgment and Evidence-Based Practice Integrate clinical reasoning, critical thinking, and current evidence to prioritize care, make safe decisions, and evaluate patient responses.	EPSLO #4	Concept maps Clinical Essentials EAQ/Lessons CJMM assignment

		HESI
5. Promote Psychosocial and Emotional Well-Being Identify and respond to patients' and families' psychosocial needs by implementing supportive interventions and coordinating appropriate resources.	EPSLO #5	Concept Maps In-class Assignments CJMM assignment Group Community project HESI benchmark
6. Support Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Educate and advocate for individuals, families, and communities by promoting wellness, preventing illness, and reducing health risks.	EPSLO #6	In-class Assignment Group Community Project HESI benchmark

Academic Dishonesty: See the Behavior/Conduct policy in the Nursing Student Handbook. *Use of AI products such as: ChatGPT, Otter AI, POE, Claude, Copilot, Grammarly, etc. should only be used for guidelines, explanations/studying, or correcting grammar errors. Any use other than what is said in this syllabus will result in disciplinary actions and zero on assignment. Assignments will be submitted through TurnIt In and Grammarly to check for plagiarism. Score of less than 25% similarity is required for all written assignments or projects.*

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dr. Rachel Fano at rfano@com.edu

Course outline: See Course Calendar in D2L and the Units for each chapter are in Appendix A of this document

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v2.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students with the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodation is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.

Appendix A