RNSG 2263
Capstone Clinical
Fall 2025

Instructor Information:
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Office Hours: By appointment

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Student hours and location:
As stated in grid

Required Textbook/Materials:
All previous textbooks

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.

Course Description:
RNSG 2263. CAPSTONE CLINICAL
(LECTURE 0, CLIN 6). CREDIT 2. WECM.
Nursing care to adult patients and families suffering from multi-system or life-threatening health needs in a medical and/ or surgical acute care setting.
Prerequisites: RNSG 2332 and RNSG 2262.

Course Requirements:
1. Reflective Journals: Analyze clinical experiences to deepen understanding and promote critical thinking
2. Quality Improvement Project: Creates an evidence-based solution to improve a clinical process or outcome.
3. Clinical Practicum Log: Applies clinical learning through detailed activity tracking
4. SLO Tracking Tool: Evaluates progress toward achieving course-specific student learning outcomes
5. IHI Modules: Applies concepts of healthcare quality and safety to clinical practice.

6. Clinical Performance Evaluation: Assesses clinical competency and the integration of theory into practice.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Assignment of Course Grade	%
Quality Improvement Project	30%
Clinical Practicum Log	30%
Clinical Performance Evaluation**	Pass/Fail
Reflective Journal	20%
SLO Tracking Tool	15%
IHI Modules	5%
TOTAL	100%
** Meeting expectations of all critical criteria (indicated with an asterisk) is required to pass the course	

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" (75%) is required to pass this course.
Grade Calculation
All assignments, including pass/fail, must be submitted to pass the course. See Grade Determination & Calculation in the Nursing Student Handbook.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:
All course assignments are expected to be completed and submitted on the specified due date. See Completion of Assignments Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook and assignment rubrics.

Attendance Policy:
See the Attendance and Punctuality Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

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. Students should check this email daily. Emails to your instructor(s) should use proper email etiquette. To respect everyone's time, students are expected to schedule appointments in a timely manner.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to End of Program Student Learner Outcomes (EPSLO)	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Apply clinical reasoning, critical thinking, and evidence-based practice to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate nursing care across diverse populations.	1-6	Reflective Journals Clinical Practicum Log Quality Improvement Project
2. Deliver safe, compassionate, and comprehensive nursing care that respects legal, ethical, cultural, and spiritual considerations across the lifespan.	1-4	Clinical Practicum Log Reflective Journals SLO Tracking Tool
3. Collaborate and communicate effectively with patients, families, and interdisciplinary teams to coordinate, manage, and advocate for patient-centered care.	1-6	Clinical Practicum Log Reflective Journals SLO Tracking Tool
4. Promote health, prevent disease, and support wellness through patient and family education, resource referral, and community engagement.	1-6	Clinical Practicum Log Reflective Journals Quality Improvement Project
5. Utilize technology and	1-4	

		Clinical Practicum Log Reflective Journals SLO Tracking Tool
information systems to support clinical decision-making, documentation, and quality improvement in patient care.		
6. Delegate, supervise, and evaluate nursing care provided by others to ensure safe, effective, and evidence-based practice within healthcare teams.	1-5	Clinical Practicum Log SLO Tracking Tool

Academic Dishonesty:
Any incidence of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Nursing Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating on exams, is an extremely serious offense. See Student Professional Conduct & Accountability Standards policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

Student Professional Conduct & Accountability Standards
All students must comply with federal, state and local laws, as well as COM policies including the College District's Student Conduct Rules (Policy FLB Local) and Nursing Program Standards. Violations of conduct, whether on or off campus – including through social media or clinical activities – will be addressed and may result in disciplinary action. See Student Professional Conduct & Accountability Standards policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else's words without quotation marks. See Student Professional Conduct & Accountability Standards policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact the course faculty using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with faculty, you continue to have questions, please contact the course facilitator. If questions remain after this, please contact the Director of Nursing, Dr. Rachel Fano at rfano@com.edu. Please see the Student Concerns Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook for further instructions.

Syllabus Revisions
Faculty reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary.

Course outline:

RNSG 2263 Capstone Clinical Course Calendar		
Semester Dates	**Learning Activities and Assignments**	**Due Date**
Week 1	Syllabus Acknowledgement Handbook Acknowledgement	Due November 3rd 2359
Week 2	IHI Modules • QI 103: Testing and Measuring Changes with PDSA Cycles • QI 104: Interpreting Data: Run Charts, Control Charts, and other Measurement Tools • QI 105: Leading Quality Improvement	Due November 10th by 2359
Week 3-6	Reflective Journal SLO Tracking Tool Clinical Practicum Log	Reflective Journal • December 2nd by 12 noon SLO Tracking Tool • *Due no later than 48 hours after shift Clinical Practicum Log • December 2nd by 12 noon
Week 6	Final Clinical Performance Evaluation	**Due December 2ⁿᵈ by 2359**

*If multiple clinical back-to-back allowance for submission up to 48 hours from the last shift in a row or at discretion of clinical instructor if discussed prior to original submission due date. (Ex. Mr. Hill has a shift on 12/1 and 12/2. He emails Dr. Fano on 12/1 that he would like to submit his assignments later; she responds and agrees on 12/1. Mr. Hill may submit both his assignments by 12/5 2359 without penalty)

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 at 409-933-8919 or AccessibilityServices@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is in the 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 16-week Fall semester session is November 14.

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. Issuing the FN grade is at the instructor's discretion. 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 especially 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 challenging time, please go to 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.

Statement of Eligibility for an Occupational Licensure: Effective September 1, 2017, HB 1508 amends the Texas Occupations Code Section 53 that requires education providers to notify potential or enrolled students that a criminal history may make them ineligible for an occupational license upon program completion. The following website provides links to information about the licensing process and requirements: https://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure_eligibility.asp. See also www.tdlr.texas.gov. for additional information.
Should you wish to request a review of the impact of criminal history on your potential Registered Nurse License prior to or during your quest for a degree, you can visit this link and request a "Criminal History Evaluation": https://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure_endorsement.asp.
This information is being provided to all persons who apply or enroll in the program, with notice of the requirements as described above, regardless of whether the person has been convicted of a criminal offense. Additionally, HB 1508 authorizes licensing agencies to require reimbursements when a student fails to receive the required notice.

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.

Student Responsibilities

Attendance and Scheduling

Students are expected to complete their assigned clinical hours as scheduled. Clinical shifts will follow standard hospital shift times, which are 6:45 AM to 7:15 PM for day shifts and 6:45 PM to 7:15 AM for night shifts. Students must arrive on time for their assigned shifts and text their clinical instructor upon both arrival and departure from the clinical site.

If a student fails to communicate their arrival by 6:45 AM or 6:45 PM (depending on the assigned shift), five points will be deducted from their final clinical grade for each occurrence. Students are expected to treat the clinical schedule as a contractual agreement. If an absence is necessary due to illness or an emergency, the student must notify the clinical instructor before the start of the clinical shift. In cases of illness, a written release from a healthcare provider must be submitted before the student may return to the clinical setting. There are no make-up clinical days for the capstone clinical rotation.

Requests to change a clinical schedule must be submitted in writing via email to the clinical facilitator and must be approved prior to implementation. Emergency schedule changes may be considered at the discretion of the clinical facilitator.

Communication Requirements

Students are required to maintain regular communication with their clinical instructor throughout the clinical rotation. Upon arrival at the clinical facility, students must send a text message to the instructor confirming their arrival. A second text message is required upon departure. If a student is reassigned to a different unit by the charge nurse during the shift, the student must inform the clinical instructor immediately by both text and email. Failure to follow these communication procedures will result in grade penalties as outlined above.

Preceptor Assignments and Clinical Role

Students assigned to a preceptor site must report to the designated clinical unit and request an assignment from the charge nurse. The student is expected to assume total care responsibilities for the patients assigned to their preceptor.

In the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), students will typically be assigned one to two patients. In medical-surgical units or the emergency department, students will be responsible for the care of four patients. Students are not permitted to function as patient care assistants (PCAs) or to

shadow the nurse without active involvement. The student role is participatory, not observational.

Students are allowed to perform only those skills listed on the approved Capstone Nursing Skills List. They may not administer chemotherapy or blood transfusions, but they may observe and monitor patients receiving these treatments.

Clinical Preparation

Prior to each clinical shift, students are expected to review current, evidence-based reference materials relevant to the assigned unit. They should also identify learning objectives and bring a printed copy of their clinical objectives and skills checklist to the clinical site. Upon arrival, students must confer with their preceptor regarding unit expectations, typical patient conditions, and responsibilities for the shift. Students should seek opportunities to develop confidence in performing nursing duties and demonstrate initiative in refining their clinical skills.

Clinical Documentation and Assignment Submission

Following each clinical shift, students are required to upload the following documents to D2L: a clinical journal entry, for their assigned patients, and a completed clinical tracking tool and time log.

All documents must be submitted by the due dates listed in the course calendar. All course assignments are expected to be completed and submitted on the specified due date. See Completion of Assignments Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook. Students are responsible for reviewing assignment instructions and addressing all required components in each journal entry.

Quality Improvement Project

Each student is required to complete a Quality Improvement (QI) project based on an identified need within their assigned clinical unit. The project must be conducted onsite, and the student must present it to their assigned preceptor. The QI topic and project outline must be submitted to the clinical instructor at least one week prior to the presentation date.

Students must also communicate the date and time of the planned presentation to the instructor. During the QI planning process, students should schedule a shift with the charge nurse or nurse manager to identify unit-specific core measures, determine who collects and reports quality data, understand how the data is shared with the staff, and learn the consequences of failing to meet performance benchmarks.

Each student must use the IHI Model for Improvement to structure their project. The final project must be uploaded in D2L as a poster presentation. A grading rubric will be used to evaluate the project.

Professional Conduct and Confidentiality

Students are expected to maintain professional behavior at all times and to adhere to the rules and regulations of the College of the Mainland and the Nursing Program Student Handbook. All communications and documentation must respect patient confidentiality, including any references to clinical experiences on social media or other public platforms.

Clinical Attire

Dress code includes wearing scrubs at all clinical facilities. Students who are dismissed from clinical, lab, class or a COM-sponsored event due to non-compliance with uniform or hygiene standards will not be provided make-up opportunities for any missed assignments or clinical hours. Wear your school's name badge at all times in the clinical setting. You may be required to get an additional photo and badge at some facilities. Failure to bring/wear the COM ID Badge to clinical and/or the clinical site ID badge will result in the student being sent home for the day from the clinical site. See Uniform Requirements Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook

Faculty Responsibilities

Faculty are responsible for verifying that students meet all clinical readiness requirements prior to placement in clinical settings. Faculty will be present on-site for traditional clinical days and will conduct one to two visits for students assigned to preceptor sites. The purpose of the site visit is to evaluate student performance in real-time, assess communication with staff and preceptors, and provide support as needed.

Faculty will provide students with ongoing feedback regarding their performance through emails, in-person meetings, phone calls, and virtual communication platforms such as Teams. All evaluation criteria for the clinical course are outlined in the course syllabus and evaluation forms. While the preceptor contributes to the evaluation process, the faculty member retains final responsibility for determining whether students meet course objectives.

Preceptor Responsibilities

The preceptor's primary role is to teach and mentor the student throughout the clinical rotation. Preceptors are encouraged to challenge students with appropriate clinical scenarios, ask critical thinking questions, and guide students in developing care plans, making clinical judgments, and improving documentation. Preceptors should model effective interpersonal and professional behavior.

Preceptors are expected to provide regular feedback to students. If concerns arise, the preceptor should first address them directly with the student. Written documentation of the concern and any resolution should be shared with the faculty as soon as possible.

Faculty will provide preceptors with contact information and are available for consultation as needed. Preceptors must immediately notify faculty if there are concerns about a student's safety, professionalism, or performance. Additionally, preceptors should inform faculty of any changes in availability or preceptor assignments.

While the faculty member is ultimately responsible for evaluating the student, preceptors play a critical role in contributing to that process. Observations and documentation from the preceptor support the evaluation and help ensure that students meet professional and academic standards. Preceptors should assess students based on practice standards, communicate findings to faculty, and share feedback with the student in a constructive manner.

Permissible Capstone Nursing Skills

The student will perform only those procedures and treatments which have been successfully completed during the nursing skills course or nursing skills laboratory. Preceptor discretion is advised.

Independent	RN Preceptor Supervised
Skills typically delegated to CNAs	IV push medications
Colostomy Care	Drawing blood from central lines
Enema administration	Flushing central lines
Foley Catheter insertion	IV Pump set up
IV insertion	NG feeding initiation / set up
Isolation procedures*	PCA Pump set up
IV site maintenance	Phlebotomy / Specimen collection
IV flow rate regulation	Restraint application/monitoring
IV tubing changes	Any equipment with which the student is not familiar or comfortable

Medication Administration **	Documentation as permitted by the facility
NGT insertion/removal	***Blood product and chemotherapy administration is a non-permissible skill, and the student can only observe
Oxygen administration	
Pre-Op/ Post Op care	
Pressure Ulcer care	
Sterile dressing changes	
Tracheal suctioning	
Traction	
Wound drainage device care	

** may require RN to acquire medication from dispensing machine and barcode scan as student will not typically have this access.