



NURS-3354-00115-S12025
Legal & Ethical Issues in Healthcare
Summer 2025
Internet Online

Course Facilitator: Molly Gundermann, MSN, RN mgundermann@com.edu 409-933-8395

Student hours and location:

STEAM 225-21

Virtual hours available

Required Textbook/Materials:

Burkhardt, M. & Nathaniel, A. (2025). *Ethics & issues in contemporary nursing: Nursing ethics for the 21st Century*, 2nd Edition. St. Louis: Elsevier, Inc.

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American psychological association*, 7th edition. Washington, DC: APA

Course Description:

NURS 3354 Legal & Ethical Issues in Healthcare (Credit 3: Lecture 3, Lab 0) (5-week course, 48 contact hours). This course explores the application of law and ethical principles related to nursing in differing practice areas.

Course requirements:

1. Discussion board/video assignments (3): Assess knowledge and application of course content. Discussion board/video assignment topics will be from the weekly reading content. Students will post one significant post related to the course content and a support post with cited references. Students will reply to two of their peer's/instructor's posts with cited references. If a student receives a grade below 70% on any discussion board rubric, the student should schedule a counseling appointment with the instructor to complete remediation.

2. Case studies (4): Assesses overall knowledge and application of complete course content. Case studies will meet QSEN/NLN competencies, including teamwork, collaboration and professional identity, evidence-based practice and spirit of inquiry, and safety and nursing judgment. If a student receives a grade below 70% on any case study, the student should schedule a counseling appointment with the course facilitator.

3. Weekly Participation/Professionalism: Assesses the ability to synthesize information when collaborating on a topic with peers. Students will discuss components of evidence-based research via discussion board. Students will be expected to synthesize content for the discussion post and support their responses with cited references. Students will be required to synthesize postings from

two peers/instructors and contribute substantially to the post with new information, either supporting the peers/instructors' view or offering a different view with supporting references.

Professionalism:

- a. Attendance – Student is present in the class per institution attendance requirements.
- b. Timeliness – student submits assignments on time.
- c. Participation and engagement—Students participate in class and team activities in a meaningful and engaged way 2 days/week.
- d. Preparedness – student completes all assignments and pre-class assignments.
- e. Professional demeanor – Student communicates professionally throughout the course period.
- f. Objectives Application – Students will apply the objectives of this class to all classwork and assignments.
- g. Teamwork – student participates in teams collaboratively and professionally.

4. Quizzes (5): These assess overall knowledge and application of complete course content. Students will complete quizzes as assigned, each due at midnight on the assigned deadline. The student will have two attempts to complete each quiz. The recorded grade will be the average for the two quiz attempts. The quizzes will be timed and taken on Respondus.

5. Term Paper (1): The term paper written assignment is a comprehensive paper in which the student must choose an ethical principle or theory as a foundation to develop a personal nursing perspective. Utilizing the personal nursing perspective, the student must analyze the roles of the baccalaureate-prepared nurse, including Provider of patient-centered care, Patient safety advocate, Member of the Interdisciplinary Team, and Member of the Profession.

6. Reflection Paper/Journal (2): To actively engage with course content by critically analyzing personal experiences, identifying key takeaways, and connecting theory to practice. To use insights from reflections to inform future study strategies, decision-making, and professional development.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Methods of Instruction

Case studies

Assignments

Audio-visual instructional aids

Written Reports/Clinical Reasoning exercises

Grade Calculation

Assignments	Percentage %
Discussion boards/video assignments/ Professionalism (3)	15
Case Studies (4)	20
Reflection Paper/Journal (2)	10
Term Paper	30
Quizzes (5)	25
Total	100
*A Grade Total of at least 70% is required to pass the course.	

Grading Scale:

A = 90 -100.00

B = 80 -89.99

C = 70 -79.99

D = 60 -69.99

F = < 60

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:

All course assignments must be completed and submitted on the specified due date. See Late Assignments Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

Attendance Policy:

See the 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. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
Synthesize knowledge gained from pre-requisite and co-requisite courses included in the program of study.	Synthesize knowledge, skills, and values from the arts, sciences, and humanities as an exemplar of professional nursing and an advocate of social justice.	Discussion board, case study, and quizzes; other assignments; Weekly participation
Apply regulatory standards to complex practice situations.	Utilize data to monitor outcomes of care and improvement methods to continuously improve the quality and safety of nursing	Discussion board, case study, and quizzes; other assignments; Weekly participation

	care to minimize the risk of harm individually and across the healthcare system.	
Apply legal standards to complex patient care situations.	Provide comprehensive patient-centered care utilizing an organized framework to make individual, community, and population-based decisions grounded in evidence-based practice.	Discussion board, case study, and quizzes; other assignments; Weekly participation
Apply ethical principles to complex patient care situations	Provide comprehensive patient-centered care utilizing an organized framework to make individual, community, and population-based decisions grounded in evidence-based practice.	Term paper (applying an Ethical Theory/principle to a paper topic) Discussion board, case study, and quizzes; other assignments; Weekly participation
Apply constitutional, administrative, and criminal law in complex practice situations.	Utilize data to monitor outcomes of care and improvement methods to continuously improve nursing quality and safety.	Discussion board, case study, and quizzes; other assignments; Weekly participation
Analyze the legal implications inherent in nursing management.	Utilize data to monitor outcomes of care and improvement methods to continuously improve the quality and safety of nursing care to minimize the risk of harm individually and across the healthcare system.	Discussion board, case study, and quizzes; other assignments; Weekly participation

Academic Dishonesty: Any incidence of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating on exams, is an extremely serious offense. See the Behavior/Conduct 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. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will receive a grade of zero and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate disciplinary action. Also see the Behavior/Conduct policy in the Nursing Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the nursing program.

Avoiding Plagiarism: <http://www.plagiarism.org/>

Student Concerns:

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please use the contact information provided to reach me. If you continue to have questions after discussing your concern with me, please contact Dr. Rachel Fano at 409-933-8568.

ANA Scope and Standards of Practice:

Students must adhere to the established ANA Scope and Standards of Practice (2021). (See Student Handbook and Clinical Evaluation Tool for a detailed explanation of standards.)

Student Handbooks:

Students must adhere to all policies outlined in the College and Nursing Student Handbooks.

Syllabus Revisions:

The faculty reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary.

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 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 accommodations 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 5-week session is June 29. The last date to withdraw from the 10-week session is July 28. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 5-week session is July 31.

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.

The Tutoring Center:

Schedule an appointment with a COM Tutor

College of the Mainland's Tutoring Center offers students, faculty members, alumni, and staff various academic and job preparation tutoring services. It is in the Industrial Careers Building, Room 109.

Click on the link below for hours of operation and to make an appointment.

<https://www.com.edu/tutoring/index.html>

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual based on 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.

Notice to Students Regarding Licensing 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: www.tdlr.texas.gov