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CATTARAUGUS-ALLEGANY BOCES PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Year One/Level One

INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICAL NURSING

An introductory course to familiarize the student with current and relevant issues facing nurses today within the context of the historical development of organized nursing. The course examines ethical responsibilities, moral and legal rights, health team responsibilities, job opportunities, educational programs in nursing and health and welfare organizations.

FUNDAMENTALS OF NURSING

The content of this course is designed to introduce the Practical Nursing student to the foundation of basic nursing information including both concepts and bedside nursing care skills. The nursing process is utilized as the basis of nursing care. Instruction must reflect changes in health care delivery, including community care, home health care and long-term care. Cultural and social issues should also be recognized. Theory, demonstration and supervised nursing laboratory and clinical practice of the basic skills of bedside nursing care are the methods of instruction. The student must master fundamental nursing skills in the laboratory prior to clinical practice. The clinical component of fundamental skills in patient care includes 120 hours.

BODY STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

The content of this course is designed to introduce the Practical Nursing student to the basic components of human body structure and function. The body is studied by systems with focus on the normal anatomy and physiology. Interrelationships between the body systems are explored. This focus on the healthy body provides a base for assessing changes related to disease process.

NORMAL NUTRITION

This course will enable the student to understand the relationship of food and health and the importance of the well-nourished body. Major issues in food, nutrition and diet that are of special concern will be introduced including how the body utilizes food and nutrients, food customs, food related illnesses and special nutritional needs as in pregnancy. Skills incorporated and practiced will be in nutritional assessment, identifying nutrients in food labeling, learning the criteria for meal planning and feeding debilitated patients. The nursing process is used as the foundation for presenting nursing care.

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GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, THE LIFE SPAN

From conception through maturity and eventually old age, human life proceeds in an orderly pattern of growth and development. This pattern and the individual that results are shaped by various factors that preceded and follow conception. This course provides the student with the fundamental knowledge required to develop an understanding of growth and development concepts - physical, psychological, social and intellectual (cognitive). Beginning with the period of infancy and terminating with senescence, the student will become aware of the many factors that influence development and effective functioning of an individual who is part of a family and a larger community. In addition, the course provides a basis for formulating and giving nursing care to clients of all ages, especially the ill child. Knowledge obtained will help the nurse utilize the nursing process to reach the goal of restoring the child to maximum health and function as quickly as possibly with minimum interruption in normal development.

PHARMACOLOGY

The purpose of this course is to present the theory and facts concerning drug administration and its application to nursing process, as well as sources, purposes, side effects, routes and dosage. It provides important considerations in accurate dosage, apothecary and metric measurements, conversion techniques, calibrated instruments for administration, multiple and unit dosage concept, the use of various syringes and opportunities for practice in the preparation and administration of medicines. The entire course is organized to encourage the student nurse in self study, testing, as well as class study, demonstration and participation.

Year Two/Level Two

MEDICAL SURGICAL NURSING

This area of instruction provides the student with a basic understanding of the pathophysiology, etiology, symptoms, nursing care measures, prevention, pre-operative and post-operative care, diet and the complications and prognosis of medical and surgical conditions across all age levels. The student will also continue the development of critical thinking skills in order to make accurate clinical judgments when giving patient care to all age groups. Holistic care is emphasized. Instruction is designed to include current health issues such as community care, rehabilitation, leadership and management. Cultural and social issues must be considered. All levels of technology are incorporated into instruction. The nursing process is the foundation for delivery patient care. The student will also participate in required hours of clinical experience as determined by the nursing program.

NURSING CARE OF THE MOTHER, THE NORMAL NEWBORN AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE NEWBORN

This course provides the student with fundamental knowledge required in the constantly expanding field of maternity nursing whether care is delivered in hospital, clinic or home setting. The family's experience of pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period is emphasized; also emphasized are the nurse's role, as in teaching, utilizing the nursing process as the guide to reach a successful outcome. Other content areas include caring for the patient with AIDS and STD's, the childbearing adolescent, and the effects of caffeine, alcohol, and other drugs on the unborn child.

INTRODUCTION TO PEDIATRIC NURSING

This course is designed to explore the differences between adults and children, including physical differences, vital signs, medication administration, and the child's response to illnesses and hospitalization. Areas of instruction include health care adaptation for the child and the family including the child's experience with surgery, death and dying, fluid and electrolyte balance, abuse, nutrition and pediatric dosage calculation. Instruction should incorporate the changes in health care delivery such as increased responsibility for caring for the ill child falling on the family. With this in mind, increased emphasis has been placed on the responsibilities of the nurse in teaching the child and family. The nursing process is used as the foundation for presenting nursing care. Social, cultural and technological changes are also included. After successful completion, the student will participate in required clinical experience as determined by the Nursing program.

LEGAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS OF NURSING

This course provides basic understanding of the regulations and laws that govern the practice of nursing with emphasis on the Nurse Practice Act and qualifications for licensure. The student will also study the Code of Ethics for nursing and the standards of practice that serve as guidelines for responsible Practical Nursing practice. Specific ethical issues in nursing are discussed.