

# DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM

Bismarck State College • Dakota College at Bottineau • Lake Region State College • Williston State College

## NURS 120 Syllabus - Fall 2026

**COURSE:** NURS 120: Foundations of Nursing

**CREDIT HOURS:** 2 semester hours (Didactic course – 32 hours in the classroom)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Develop an understanding of the multidimensional base of nursing knowledge, including basic human needs, nursing process, nursing judgment, ethical and professional, health promotion and disease prevention concepts. Gain an understanding of the role of the nurse within the interdisciplinary team, the vital importance of communication while providing safe and quality client care, and how nurses use evidence-based information in their practice.

### MEETING TIME and INSTRUCTOR:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <b>AM Section I &amp; 3 T and R 1100-1150 – Abby Wisham, MSN, RN</b><br>BSC-Bismarck A, BSC-Harvey, & DCB-Valley City<br>LRSC-Devils Lake, LRSC-Grand Forks, & DCB -Minot                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>PM Section 2 T and R 1200-1250 – Abby Wisham, MSN, RN</b><br>BSC-Bismarck B, BSC-Ashley                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>PM Section 4 T and R 1200-1250 – Paige Baade, DNP, RN</b><br>DCB Bottineau, WSC Williston, WSC Watford City, WSC Sidney                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Abby Wisham, MSN, RN</b><br>Assistant Professor<br>Bismarck State College<br>HSC 109B 1133 College Drive<br>Bismarck, ND 58501<br>Office Phone: (701) 224-2431<br>Office Hours: email or call for an appointment<br><a href="mailto:abby.wisham@bismarckstate.edu">abby.wisham@bismarckstate.edu</a> | <b>Paige Baade, DNP, RN</b><br>Associate Professor<br>Dakota College at Bottineau<br>105 Simrall Blvd<br>Bottineau, ND 58318<br>Contact: (701) 228-5444 or 800-542-6866<br><a href="mailto:paige.baade@dakotacollege.edu">paige.baade@dakotacollege.edu</a> |

**PREREQUISITES:** Admission to Dakota Nursing Program, Practical Nursing Certificate

**COREQUISITE(s):** NURS 121 Practical Nursing I  
NURS 122 Clinical Practice I

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. Assessment Technologies Institute. (2026). *ATI review package and skills modules for PN students*.
2. Burton, M., & Smith, D. (2024). *Fundamentals of nursing care: Concepts, connections, and skills* (4th ed.). F. A. Davis Company.
3. Unbound Medicine. (2026). *Nursing central* (Version 2026) [Mobile app]. Unbound Medicine.
4. Silvestri, L. A., & Silvestri, A. (2024). *Saunders comprehensive review for the NCLEX-PN* (9th ed.). Elsevier.
5. Snyder, J. S., & Sump, C. (2024). *Swearingen's all-in-one nursing care planning resource* (6th ed.). Elsevier.

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## SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY UTILIZED BY STUDENTS:

### Requirements for each student in this course include-

1. Microphone: any microphone, either internal or external
2. Webcam: 320×240 VGA resolution (minimum) internal or external
  - a. Students will be attending class, meetings, and making recordings so the microphone and webcam need to be in good working order.
3. Desktop or laptop computer. Do not use Google Chromebooks/Microsoft Surface/Android tablet/iPad as they are not supported in all testing environments and in some of the online activities.
4. Printer (optional, for class handouts)
5. Reliable, high-speed internet
6. Desktop Browser – use Google Chrome, Safari, or Mozilla Firefox
7. Access to word processing software that can produce, reading, and saving files in the following formats: .doc, .docx, .pdf, .htm, .html, .rtf, .ppt, .pptx
8. Access to Adobe Acrobat Reader® to open PDF files that are used during the course.
9. Log into the LMS Blackboard daily to keep abreast of course announcements, weekly content, and Grade Center.
10. Successfully navigate and adhere to technology requirements for all instructional platforms utilized in the course.
11. ATI technical requirements: <https://www.atitesting.com/technical-requirements>
12. Blackboard browser support: [https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Ultra/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Ultra/Getting_Started/Browser_Support)

## PROGRAM AND COURSE SLOS CORRELATED TO LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND EVALUATION METHODS:

| NURS 120: Foundations of Nursing                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Program Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs)                                                                                                                                                                     | NURS 120 Course Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs)                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Learning Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Course SLO Evaluation                                                                                                                     |
| <b>TEAMWORK AND COMMUNICATION:</b><br>Participate as a member of the interdisciplinary health care team through effective communication in the delivery and management of client care.                      | 1. Define effective communication techniques used within interdisciplinary healthcare teams when communicating with appropriate team members.<br>2. Identify the roles and responsibilities of the members of the interdisciplinary healthcare team. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assigned reading</li> <li>Lecture/Classroom discussion and Activities</li> <li>Case Study: Ethic, cultural and spiritual aspects of care</li> <li>Assignment: End of life activity</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quizzes</li> <li>Exams</li> <li>Assignment: End of life activity</li> </ul>                        |
| <b>PROFESSIONALISM AND LEADERSHIP:</b><br>Incorporate professional standards and scope of practice as a certificate practical nurse while pursuing professional growth within legal, ethical and regulatory | 3. Describe the legal and ethical considerations and the role of the nurse.<br>4. Identify how professional standards, scope of practice, and social forces affecting nursing apply to nursing practice within the healthcare delivery system.       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assigned reading</li> <li>Lecture/Classroom discussion and activities</li> <li>End of life Activity</li> <li>Assignment: Reflection on Historical Figures in Nursing</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quizzes</li> <li>Exams</li> <li>Assignment: Reflection on Historical Figures in Nursing</li> </ul> |

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| frameworks.                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                    |
| <b>CLIENT-CENTERED CARE:</b><br>Provide culturally competent care for clients while promoting their self-determination and integrity.                                 | 5. Describe how the nurse incorporates caring and holistically meets basic human needs of socially and culturally diverse clients.<br>6. Identify therapeutic communication barriers and techniques when interacting with clients along the health illness continuum.<br>7. Define the nursing process as utilized by the nurse.<br>8. Recall the effects of age, gender, culture, and lifestyle choices on nutrition. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assigned reading</li> <li>Lecture/Classroom discussion</li> <li>Case Study: Ethnic, cultural, and spiritual aspects of care</li> <li>End of life activity</li> <li>Nutrition Activity</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quizzes</li> <li>Exams</li> <li>Assignment: End of life Activity</li> </ul> |
| <b>EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AND NURSING JUDGEMENT:</b><br>Utilize the nursing process, science, and clinical reasoning to provide quality evidenced-based client care. | 9. Define evidence-based nursing practice and how it is used by nurses at the bedside.<br>10. Identify the components of critical thinking for problem-solving and clinical decision-making and prioritization of care.<br>11. Describe nursing interventions related to health promotion, disease prevention, and alterations in basic human needs.                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assigned reading</li> <li>Lecture</li> <li>Classroom discussion</li> <li>Assignment: End of life Activity</li> </ul>                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quizzes</li> <li>Exams</li> <li>Assignment: End of life Activity</li> </ul> |
| <b>QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND SAFETY:</b><br>Employ evidence-based decision making to deliver safe and effective client care and to evaluate client outcomes.            | 12. Describe how QI and safety competencies are utilized within the healthcare system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assigned reading</li> <li>Lecture</li> <li>Classroom discussion</li> <li>Examples of safety hazards within rooms</li> </ul>                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quizzes</li> <li>Exams</li> </ul>                                           |

|                         |                     |            |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| <b>GRADE BREAKDOWN:</b> | Exams               | 75%        |
|                         | Assignments/Quizzes | <u>25%</u> |
|                         |                     | 100%       |

## GRADING POLICY:

The following grading scale is used:

92.0 - 100.00 = A

84.0 - 91.99 = B

76.0 - 83.99 = C

68.0 - 75.99 = D

Below 68 = F

- There will be no rounding up of grades.
- There is no extra credit offered.

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- **Final exams will not be given early. Plan to be in school until the final day.**

## **COURSE AND POLICY INFORMATION:**

Students will read the Dakota Nursing Program student handbook upon admission and submit the signature form showing that the student agrees to follow the expectations and policies found in the handbook.

Materials for this course will be posted onto the Blackboard site. It is the student's responsibility to check the course site daily for assignments and communications from faculty. Email and course announcements are used extensively within the Blackboard Learning Management System.

Students are also responsible for knowing their course grade by reviewing the Blackboard gradebook.

## **NCLEX REVIEW PROGRAM NURSING REVIEW PROGRAM:**

The Dakota Nursing Program requires students to purchase and complete an ATI Nursing Review Program. The program measures students' comprehension and evaluates their knowledge in relation to the most current NCLEX test plan, nursing process, critical thinking, and priority setting.

Please carefully review the "ATI Nursing NCLEX Review Program Policy" as stated in your DNP Nursing Student Handbook.

## **GRADING:**

Course and clinical grades are based on a variety of activities and assignments designated by the faculty. The criteria by which grades for each theory and clinical course are determined are included in course syllabi distributed to students. Students have access to and should review the learning management system grading calculation method.

Students are responsible for knowing what their grades are during the course. Please review the gradebook frequently. If an assignment or exam in the student's gradebook says the assignment or exam has not been submitted or has not been entered, it is then treated as a fact that the student did not do the assignment or exam unless the student has written proof that they did in fact complete and submit such assignment/exam as outlined in the directions. Make sure your assignments are submitted well before the due date to ensure timely submission.

Please carefully review the following "Grading/Evaluation Policies" as stated in your DNP Nursing Student Handbook.

- Grades, Grading Scale, Clinical Grades, Incomplete Grades
- Progressive Deductions, Active Learning, Artificial Intelligence
- Assignments/Quizzes/Clinical Paperwork, Exams
- Records of Grades
- Clinical Exclusions, Clinical Restrictions, Skills Practice and Skills Check-off
- Guidelines for Simulation
- Nursing Department Etiquette
- Course Study Expectations, Accommodations, and Academic Dishonesty
- Student Role in Evaluation of Teaching, Course, and Program Evaluation

## **Attendance Policy**

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- **Purpose:** The Dakota Nursing Program adheres to the college attendance policy outlined in the college catalog. In addition, the program enforces strict attendance policies for classroom, lab, and clinical experiences to ensure students meet course objectives and demonstrate professional responsibility. Consistent attendance is critical to developing the skills necessary for safe and competent nursing practice.
- **Attendance Expectations:** Students are expected to attend all theory, lab, and clinical sessions. Regular and punctual attendance is required, as absences may make it impossible for a student to meet course objectives, potentially leading to course failure.
- Please carefully review the “Attendance Policy” as stated in your DNP Nursing Student Handbook.

## Exam and Review/Remediation Procedure

- Purpose: To provide testing consistency and an optimal testing environment for all nursing students.
- Please carefully review the “Exam and Review/Remediation Procedure” as stated in your DNP Nursing Student Handbook.

## DROP AND WITHDRAW DATES CAN BE FOUND ON YOUR CAMPUS WEBSITE

Students are responsible for knowing the official drop, add, and withdraw dates, which can be found on the campus website. For questions regarding your enrollment status, please contact the campus nursing administrator or the registrar's office.

## WEB STREAMING & LECTURE RECORDING

- Platform Overview  
The North Dakota University System utilizes Yuja and Blackboard Collaborate for lecture capture and live streaming. These ADA-compliant tools integrate directly with Blackboard and allow you to stream recordings on internet-connected devices.
- Privacy & Recording Notice  
Class lectures for the DNP program are recorded and stored within Blackboard. Please be aware that your voice, questions, and in-class presentations may be recorded and made available to other students enrolled in this course. Recordings remain accessible for the duration of the current semester.
- Attendance & Usage
  - Review Tool: Watching recorded streams is highly encouraged for reviewing complex concepts or catching up on missed material.
  - No Attendance Credit: Viewing a web stream does not count as class attendance unless explicitly stated otherwise.

## GUEST SPEAKERS:

Guest Speaker Statement: Dakota Nursing Program is committed to presenting timely, innovative educational opportunities for its students. As part of those efforts, DNP faculty may invite guest speakers to address the student members of this course. Under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) regulations, such guest speakers are considered volunteers who serve a legitimate educational interest to institutional services or functions. For more information, please visit the Department of Education's FERPA

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Student Privacy webpage at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/>

## COMMUNICATION:

Students will establish their college email account for program and course communication. Students are responsible for having a working college email account and following campus policies on email and checking their email daily during the semester.

- It is the expectation of the Dakota Nursing Program that nursing faculty and students respond in a professional and courteous manner to communications from other faculty or students within 48 hours during a work week.
- Faculty and students must identify themselves **professionally** with each contact (mail, email, or telephone). This includes **first and last name as well as identification of location within the consortium**.
- Use the following link to [Create and add an email signature in Outlook - Microsoft Support](#)