

DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM

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

NURS 121 Syllabus - Fall 2026

COURSE: NURS 121: Practical Nursing I

CREDIT HOURS: 4 semester hours (Didactic 3 credits – 48 hours classroom) and (Lab 1 credit – 48 lab hours)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Explore core concepts of health assessment and mental health as they relate to client care. Learn how the nurse incorporates this knowledge in caring for the diverse client from the moment they begin to care for an individual to any point along the health-illness continuum.

MEETING TIMES:

Fall 2026 Section/Location/Faculty	Course/Time/Day
AM Section 1 – BSC-Bismarck A, BSC-Harvey, & DCB-Valley City Faculty: N121 Patrisha Cowley, MSN, RN (HA), Jackie Gibbon, MSN, RN, CNE (MH)	NURS 121 – 0800-0920 T and R NURS 121 Lab T &R 0930-1050
PM Section 2 – BSC-Bismarck B & BSC-Ashley Faculty: N121 Patricia Cowley, MSN, RN (HA), Jackie Gibbon, MSN, RN, CNE (MH)	NURS 121 – 1300-1420 T and R NURS 121 Lab T &R 1430-1550
AM Section 3 – LRSC-Devils Lake, LRSC-Grand Forks, & DCB -Minot Faculty: N121 Jaime Radway, MSN, RN (HA), Ryley Gunderson, BSN, RN (MH)	NURS 121 – 0800-0920 T and R NURS 121 Lab T &R 0930-1050
PM Section 4 – WSC-Williston, WSC-Watford City, WSC-Sidney, & DCB-Bottineau Faculty: N121 Jaime Radway, MSN, RN (HA), Ryley Gunderson, BSN, RN (MH)	NURS 121 – 1300-1420 T and R NURS 121 Lab T &R 1430-1550
<i>*NOTE: NURS 121 Exams will occur during the first hour of theory as scheduled; lab time will be incorporated into theory on exam days.</i>	

INSTRUCTORS:

Health Assessment (HA) Sections 1 and 2	Mental Health (MH) Sections 1 and 2
Patrisha P. Cowley, MSN, RN <i>Assistant Teaching Professor of Nursing</i> Bismarck State College HSC 1133 College Drive Bismarck, ND 58501 patrisha.cowley@bismarckstate.edu 701-224-2641	Jackie Gibbon, MSN, RN, CNE Nursing Instructor Dakota College at Bottineau 101 College Dr SE, Valley City ND 58072 Office Hours: by email jaquelyn.gibbon@dakotacollege.edu (701) 845-7683
Health Assessment (HA) Sections 3 and 4	Mental Health (MH) Sections 3 and 4
Jaime Radway MSN, RN Nursing instructor Williston State College 1410 University Avenue, Williston, ND 58801 Jaime.radway@willistonstate.edu (701) 774-4597	Ryley Gunderson, BSN, RN Nursing Instructor Lake Region State College 1300 S. Columbia Road, Grand Forks, ND 58201 Office Hours: by email Ryley.gunderson@lrsc.edu 701-662-1477

DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM

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

PREREQUISITES: Admission to Dakota Nursing Program, Practical Nursing Certificate

COREQUISITE(s): NURS 120 Foundations of Nursing
NURS 122 Clinical Practice I

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. Assessment Technologies Institute. (2026). *Review package and skills modules for PN students*. Assessment Technologies Institute.
2. Halter, M. J. (2026). *Varcarolis' foundations of psychiatric mental health nursing* (10th ed.). Elsevier.
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.
6. Wilson, S. F., Giddens, J. F., Goebel, S. K., Klenke-Borgmann, L., & Yamane S. S. (2026). *Health assessment for nursing practice* (8th ed.). Elsevier.

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

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

NURS 121: Practical Nursing I			
Program Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs)	NURS 121 Course Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs)	Learning Activities	Course SLO Evaluation

DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM

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

TEAMWORK AND COMMUNICATION: Participate as a member of the interdisciplinary health care team through effective communication in the delivery and management of client care.	1. Identify effective communication techniques utilized in client care as a member of the interdisciplinary team.	* Assigned reading * Lecture * Case Studies in Health assessment and Mental Health. * Role plays with therapeutic communication * Group discussions and classroom projects * Documentation practice in Health Assessment Lab activities TBA	* Exams * Quizzes * Case Study * Role play
PROFESSIONALISM AND LEADERSHIP: Incorporate professional standards and scope of practice as a certificate practical nurse while pursuing professional growth within legal, ethical, and regulatory frameworks.	2. Describe ethical and legal issues related to health assessment and in care of the client with a mental health disorder.	* Assigned reading * Lecture * Documentation practice in Health Assessment * Classroom projects Lab activities TBA	* Exams * Quizzes
CLIENT-CENTERED CARE: Provide culturally competent care for clients while promoting their self-determination and integrity.	3. Identify data related to the diverse client's values, beliefs, and attitudes related to health and wellness. 4. Describe therapeutic communication, cultural sensitivity, and caring as related to the diverse client.	* Assigned reading* Lecture* Case Study on Schizophrenia* Case Studies in Health Assessment*ATI non-proctored Exam*Jeopardy Game on Personality Disorders* Classroom projects Lab activities TBA	* Exams * Quizzes *ATI non-proctored exam results *Case study *ATI proctored mental health exam*
EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AND NURSING JUDGEMENT: Utilize the nursing process, science, and clinical reasoning to provide quality evidence-based client care.	5. Describe the role of the nurse in health assessment in health promotion and disease prevention in adult clients. 6. Recognize common mental health disorders and appropriate interventions across the lifespan 7. Identify normal and abnormal findings of a physical assessment for adult clients. 8. Describe interpersonal, technical, and organizational	* Assigned reading * Lecture * Psych Medication Flowsheets * ATI Pharmacology Made Easy on Psych Medications * Case study on bipolar disorder * ATI videos of system assessments * Health Assessment activities to include assessment practice, discussions, case studies. * Classroom projects	* Exams * Quizzes *ATI post tests * Pharmacology quiz on Psych meds *Case study

DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM

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

	skills needed to complete the data collection process.	Lab activities TBA	
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND SAFETY: Employ evidence-based decision making to deliver safe and effective client care and to evaluate client outcomes.	9. Describe client safety issues related to health assessment and mental health.	* Assigned reading * Lecture * Class discussion and role play * Classroom projects Lab activities TBA	* Exams * Quizzes
INFORMATICS: Utilize appropriate technology to communicate effectively and manage information in the delivery of client care.	10. Demonstrate proper documentation of data.	* Assigned reading * Lecture * Documentation practice Lab activities TBA	* Exams * Quizzes * Documentation assignment

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Health Assessment and Mental Health Nursing exams, and quizzes, and assignments will all be combined for the total grade with the following grade breakdown:

Exams:	75%
ATI Proctored exam	10%
Quizzes/ Assignments:	<u>15%</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.**
- **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.

Material 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

DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM

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

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

- **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.

DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM

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

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 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](#)