

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 (Online Course)

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:

Asynchronous online.

INSTRUCTOR:

Roberta Valella, MSN, RN

Nursing Instructor

Dakota College at Bottineau

101 3rd Avenue SW

Suite 202

Minot, ND 58701

Office Phone: (701) 446-8687

Office Hours: email for an appointment

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PREREQUISITES: Admission to the college

COREQUISITE(s): None

TRANSFERABILITY INTO THE DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM:

This course will be offered to students not yet in the program and to nursing students in the program.

- If a student takes this course before they are accepted into the nursing program, it is valid for completion of the nursing program for **four years**. If the course was taken more than four years before the student is accepted into the nursing program, the course must be retaken.
- A grade of A, B, or C in this course will make it transferable into the Dakota Nursing Program. If a grade of D or F is obtained, this course is not transferable into the Dakota Nursing Program.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. Burton, M., & Smith, D. (2024). *Fundamentals of nursing care: Concepts, connections, and skills* (4th ed.). F. A. Davis Company.

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

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- 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. 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 120: Foundations of Nursing			
Program Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs)	NURS 120 Course Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs)	Learning Activities	Course SLO Evaluation
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. Define effective communication techniques used within interdisciplinary healthcare teams when communicating with appropriate team members. 2. Identify the roles and responsibilities of the members of the interdisciplinary healthcare team.	- Assigned reading - Recorded lectures - Discussion Boards - Assignment: Ethnic, cultural, and spiritual aspects of care - FA Davis Assignment: Communication and Relationships	- Quizzes - Exams - Discussion Board participation - Assignment: Ethnic, cultural, and spiritual aspects of care - FA Davis Assignment: Communication and Relationships
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.	3. Describe the legal and ethical considerations and the role of the nurse. 4. Identify how professional standards, scope of practice, and social forces affecting nursing apply to nursing practice within the healthcare delivery system.	- Assigned reading - Recorded lectures - Discussion Boards - Nursing as a Profession Reflection paper	- Quizzes - Exams - Discussion Board participation - Nursing as a Profession Reflection paper
CLIENT-CENTERED CARE:	5. Describe how the nurse incorporates caring and	- Assigned reading - Recorded lecture	- Quizzes - Exams

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Provide culturally competent care for clients while promoting their self-determination and integrity.	holistically meets basic human needs of socially and culturally diverse clients. 6. Identify therapeutic communication barriers and techniques when interacting with clients along the health illness continuum. 7. Define the nursing process as utilized by the nurse. 8. Recall the effects of age, gender, culture, and lifestyle choices on nutrition.	• Discussion Boards • Assignment: Ethnic, cultural, and spiritual aspects of care • Assignment: Loss, Grief, and Dying • Assignment: Nutrition module • FA Davis Assignments: Patient Teaching, Nutrition, and Nutritional Support; Admission, Transfers and Discharge	• Discussion Board participation • Assignment: Ethnic, cultural, and spiritual aspects of care • Assignment: Loss, Grief, and Dying • Assignment: Nutrition module • FA Davis Assignments: Patient Teaching, Nutrition, and Nutritional Support; Admission, Transfers and Discharge
EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AND NURSING JUDGEMENT: 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. 10. Identify the components of critical thinking for problem-solving and clinical decision-making and prioritization of care. 11. Describe nursing interventions related to health promotion, disease prevention, and alterations in basic human needs.	• Assigned reading • Recorded lecture • Discussion Boards • Assignment: Loss, Grief, and Dying • FA Davis Assignment: Nursing Process and Clinical Judgment	• Quizzes • Exams • Discussion Board participation • Assignment: Loss, Grief, and Dying • FA Davis Assignment: Nursing Process and Clinical Judgment
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND SAFETY: 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.	• Assigned reading • Recorded lecture • Discussion Boards • Examples of safety hazards within rooms	• Quizzes • Exams • Discussion Board participation

GRADE BREAKDOWN:	Exams	75%
	Assignments/Quizzes	25%
		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

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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:

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.

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. Whenever a student has unsatisfactory grades during the semester, they should contact the instructor for guidance.

Incomplete Grades: Incomplete grades will be given to a student only when extreme circumstances have prevented the student from completing all work by the end of the term and will be given at the discretion of the faculty and as noted in the college catalog. An incomplete grade must be made up within four weeks of the end of the semester following that in which the incomplete grade was received. Work not completed by that time will be converted to the grade indicated by the instructor.

Artificial Intelligence:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs such as Microsoft Co-Pilot, may be required in nursing courses to help generate ideas and develop skills in using AI tools. Do not use AI unless it is specifically required or permitted in your assignment directions. Your college plagiarism policy will be followed if AI is not used in an ethical, transparent manner.

AI is a tool; it does not replace your personal judgment skills. It should stimulate ideas that you would then verify against other reliable sources. You would then paraphrase that material in your own words and cite the reliable source. Use only with acknowledgement of when and how you used AI.

Material generated by AI can be biased toward one side, inaccurate, or incomplete, and AI may hallucinate, producing completely inaccurate information. AI is not a reputable or citable academic source. Don't use or trust what AI says unless you can back it up with a credible source. Note that material generated by an AI program may change each time you access that URL.

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Assignments: All assignments must be completed and submitted on time in the manner specified by the faculty. Students may fail the course if all assignments are not completed. Late/makeup work will not be accepted (student will receive a 0%) unless previously arranged with the instructor or impacted by extenuating circumstances.

Students will notify the course instructor of any issues in completing assignments or exams. “Notification” means that the student sends an email with the appropriate information or speaks directly to the nursing instructor by telephone or in person.

See Blackboard course and assignment rubrics for details.

1. Discussion Threads: Access this course every week for discussion topic that is due Thursday at 1159. Then respond to two discussion threads by Saturday at 1159.
2. Other assignments are due every Friday at 1159 PM.

Exams:

Notification for absence from Exams:

1. Students will notify the **course instructor** prior to missing an exam. “Notification” for an exam absence means that the student sends an email with the appropriate information or speaks directly to the nursing instructor.
2. If a student does not complete an exam as scheduled, they will receive a 25% deduction unless previously arranged with the instructor. A 50% deduction will be implemented for second missed exam in that course. The student is required to take a missed exam within 24 hours or as arranged with the instructor for extenuating circumstances. If it is not completed, then a score of 0 is obtained.

Remediation of Exams

1. A student earning less than 76% on an exam is required to make an appointment with the course instructor for a review of the test within 48 hours after the grade is posted.

Student Responsibilities

If a student has concerns after taking an exam the following process must be followed:

2. The student contacts the instructor via email with concerns/questions related to the exam.
3. Adjustments to examinations can be made at the discretion of the instructor. The instructor will notify the students of their decision.
4. The student is responsible for keeping silent about the exam content until all sites have taken the exam. This means there is to be no talking or writing about the exam with another student. If a student discusses or gives answers to a student who has not taken the exam, this will be viewed as cheating, (academic dishonesty).

Records of Grades: The faculty strongly endorses the idea that each student is responsible for knowing their own academic status based on grades from learning activities. Grades are recorded in the Blackboard Grade Center. All gradebook questions must be addressed by the student to the lead instructor at midterm and then again during the week before finals. There will be no changes accepted to the gradebook regarding absent or late/missed assignments or late/missed exams during finals week. It is the student’s responsibility to know what their grades are and contact the instructors or their nursing administrator for a plan to improve.

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Course Etiquette: It is expected that students will show sensitivity to their peers as well as instructors by avoiding any activity that is rude or causes discomfort to others. You are expected to participate in course discussions (threads) and any other contact with your faculty or peers in a courteous and respectful manner.

Course study expectations: Commitment to learning is important to success. For every semester credit hour you are taking in a class, three hours need to be set aside in your weekly schedule to read, study, and devote time toward your education outside of class.

For example: NURS 120 (2 credits) x 3 hours = 6 hours/week to study (minimal recommended study hours per week.)

Academic Dishonesty: Academic honesty is held in the highest regard. Academic dishonesty will be addressed following the policies outlined in your college catalog. Dishonesty may result in failure of the course.

ACCOMMODATION:

To request academic accommodation due to a disability that may limit your ability to fully participate in a class/lab/clinical, please contact the accessibility or disability services office at your college. Personnel from that office will work with you and your instructor to arrange for reasonable accommodation after you have completed the registration process and it has been determined that you qualify. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the request for accommodation and provide it to the instructor and local campus nursing director. An accommodation must be renewed through the accessibility or disability services office and the course faculty every semester.

- Dakota College at Bottineau Students: contact Disability Support Services Coordinator at 701.228.5425

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 course instructor or the registrar's office.

- DCB – <http://www.dakotacollege.edu/academics/academic-calendar/>

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.

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- No Attendance Credit: Viewing a web stream does not count as class attendance unless explicitly stated otherwise.

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](#)

Communication between students and faculty should remain on a professional level with no questionable jokes, cartoons, etc. transmitted. Students using the institution's computer labs are reminded that they cannot download information onto the computer hard drives. Any information must be stored on an alternate drive.

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

Assignment details can be found each week within the Blackboard course.

Week 1

Orientation to the course and course resources, Student Success, FA Davis, APA format.

- Discussion board
- Submit Exam Proctor Forms

Week 2

Ch. 1 ~ The Vista of Nursing

Ch. 2 ~ Health-Care Delivery, Settings, and Economics

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion board
- Quiz

Week 3

Ch. 3 ~ Ethics, Law, and Delegation in Nursing

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion Board
- Quiz

Week 4

Ch. 4 ~ The Nursing Process: Critical Thinking, Decision Making, and Clinical Judgment

- Yuja Lecture

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- Discussion board
- Quiz
- **Exam #1: Chapters 1-4**

Week 5

Ch. 6 ~ Communication and Relationships

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion board
- Quiz

Week 6

Ch. 7 ~ Promoting Health and Wellness

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion board
- Quiz

Week 7 ~ Ethics, Culture, and Spiritual Aspects of Care

- Yuja Lecture
- In Depth Discussion board
- Quiz

Week 8

Ch. 11 ~ Complementary and Alternative Medicine

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion board
- Quiz
- **Exam #2: Chapter 6,7,8**

Week 9

Ch. 19 ~ Pain Management and Restorative Sleep

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion board
- Quiz

Week 10

Ch. 10 ~ Loss, Grief and Dying

- Yuja Lecture
- In Depth Discussion board
- Quiz

Week 11

Ch. 32 ~ Care of the Elderly

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion board
- **Exam 3 – Chapters 10, 11, 19**

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Week 12

Ch. 5 ~ Documentation

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion board
- Quiz

Week 13

Ch. 12 ~ Patient Teaching

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion board
- Quiz

Week 14

Ch. 20 ~ Admissions, Transfers, and Discharges

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion board
- **Exam 4: Chapters 12, 5, 32**

Week 15

Ch. 23 ~Nutrition

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion board
- Nursing as a Profession Reflection paper

Week 16

Ch. 24 ~ Nutritional Care and Support

- Yuja Lecture
- Discussion board
- Quiz

Week 17

- Discussion board
- **Final Exam #5: Chapters 20, 23, 24**