

DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM

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

NURS 225 Syllabus - Fall 2026, Sections 1 and 2

COURSE: NURS 225: Alterations in Health I

CREDIT HOURS: 3 semester hours (48 Classroom Hours)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Explore the pathophysiology and nursing interventions, used in caring for individuals experiencing acute and chronic alterations in health, that build on concepts, knowledge and skills introduced in practical nursing courses and the supporting sciences. Utilize evidence-based practice, nursing judgment, therapeutic communication, and the nursing process as a framework for providing and managing nursing care to diverse individuals along the health-illness continuum.

MEETING TIMES and INSTRUCTORS:

Section	Date/Time
AM Section 1 BSC-Bismarck A, BSC-Hazen, BSC-Garrison, DCB Minot	1030-1150 Wednesday IVN and Monday Theory Exams as scheduled
PM Section 2 BSC-Bismarck B, BSC-Hettinger, DCB-Bottineau, DCB-Valley City, WSC-Williston	1430-1550 Wednesday IVN and Monday Theory Exams as scheduled
Heather Becher MSN, RN Assistant Teaching Professor of Nursing BSC- Health Science 1133 College Dr Bismarck, ND 58506 Office: 701-224-2467 (leave message) Office Hours: email or call for an appointment heather.becher@bismarckstate.edu	Gail Raasakka, MSN, RN, CNE (Lead Faculty) Associate Professor of Nursing Williston State College, HSSC 165 1410 University Avenue Williston, ND 58801 Office Phone: (701) 774-4290 Toll Free: 1-888-863-9455 Office Hours: email or call for an appointment gail.raasakka@willistonstate.edu

PREREQUISITES: Admission to Associate Degree Nursing Program

COREQUISITES: NURS 224, Professional Role Development
NURS 226, Maternal Child Nursing
NURS 227, Clinical Applications I

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. Assessment Technologies Institute. (2026). *ATI review package, skills modules, and NCLEX review for RN students*.
2. Harding, M. M., Kwong, J., Hagler, D., & Reinisch, C. (2026). *Lewis's medical-surgical nursing: Assessment and management of clinical problems* (13th ed.). Elsevier.
3. LaCharity, L. A., Kumagai, C. K., & Hosler, S. M. (2025). *Prioritization, delegation, and assignment: Practice exercises for the NCLEX-RN examination* (6th ed.). Elsevier.
4. Snyder, J. S., & Sump, C. A. (2023). *Swearingen's all-in-one nursing care planning resource: Medical-surgical, pediatric, maternity, and psychiatric-mental health* (6th 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

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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. 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 225: Alterations in Health I			
Program Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs)	NURS 225 Course Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs)	Learning Activities	Course SLO Evaluation
TEAMWORK AND COMMUNICATION: Collaborate with clients and members of the interdisciplinary health care team to optimize effective communication, caring behaviors, and management of client needs.	1. Characterize relationships within interdisciplinary healthcare teams developed to optimize effective communication, caring behaviors, and management of client healthcare needs.	- Incorporate use of Providers orders, policies and procedures into course topic areas. - Case studies- working with Provider, RT, and pharmacy - Cardiac Unfolding Case Study	- Exams - Quizzes - Unfolding Case Studies/quizzes - In class active learning - ATI Engage Assignments
PROFESSIONALISM AND LEADERSHIP: Adhere to professional standards and scope of practice as an associate degree registered nurse while pursuing professional growth and acting as a leader and change agent within legal, ethical and regulatory frameworks.	2. Examine the role and responsibilities of a registered nurse to provide and direct client care across the lifespan.	- Delegation Decisions- examples in text and discussed actively in class. - Legal/Ethical Dilemma boxes noted throughout text- review - Delegation and Priority questions in Case Studies on Evolve and in Text (Lewis) - LaCharity Case Studies and chapter review questions for topic area utilized in class. - Unfolding Case Studies	- Exams - Quizzes - AI Assignment - ATI Engage Assignments

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CLIENT-CENTERED CARE: Provide culturally competent care and advocate for clients while promoting their self-determination and integrity.	3. Utilize the nursing process to prioritize client centered care that incorporates therapeutic communication, client teaching principles, and culturally sensitive care while advocating and promoting self-determination and integrity.	- Assigned reading - Pain AI Assignment - Palliative Care Case study - Culturally competent care headings can be found woven throughout text in chapters and will be highlighted in class. - Cardiac EBP assignment	- Exams - Quizzes - AI Pain Assignment - Palliative Care case study - In class active learning - ATI Engage Assignments
EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AND NURSING JUDGEMENT: Implement nursing judgment to make safe, effective, and evidenced-based decisions that integrate science and the nursing process in providing holistic client care.	4. Plan client care incorporating evidence-based practice and teaching-learning principles that promote self-determination.	- Pain AI Assignment - Peri-Operative Assignment - Cardiac EBP assignment - ATI Video Case Study—Palliative care - Case Study on infection	- Exams - Quizzes - AI Pain Assignment - Peri-Operative Assignment - EBP Cardiac Paper - ATI Engage Assignments
	5. Apply the use of nursing judgment in client care to make safe, effective, and evidence-based decisions.	- Assigned reading - Lecture - Peri-Operative assignment - Cardiac EBP assignment	- Exams - Quizzes - In class active learning - ATI Engage Assignments
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND SAFETY: Incorporate a spirit of inquiry to make evidence based clinical judgments and management decisions to improve the safety and quality of care across a variety of systems.	6. Utilize quality care measures in the plan of care to keep clients safe and satisfied.	- Root-cause analysis - Safety Alert Boxes throughout text - Pharmacology Guides	- Exams - Quizzes - Discussion thread - Comprehensive Pharmacology ATI Quizzes
INFORMATICS: Integrate current technology to support decision-making and manage information in the delivery of client care.	7. Explain the use of technology to communicate effectively and manage information in the delivery of client care.	- Informatics boxes included in text. - EHR diagram – Asthma client in ED - Analysis of ABG results from diagnostic table.	- Exams - Quizzes - In class discussion with prioritization based on electronic health record - ABG Analysis text polling

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GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Exams:	80%
Yuja Quiz Points:	2%
ATI Engage Quizzes/other Assignments:	<u>18%</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.

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

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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.

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.

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- 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](#)