Course Description

Explores the role of the professional nurse. Emphasizes nursing organizations, legal and ethical implications, and addresses trends in management and organizational skills. Explores group dynamics, relationships, conflicts, and leadership styles. Lecture 1 hour per week.

General Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to promote an understanding and appreciation of the development of the nursing profession and issues related to the role of the Associate Degree Nurse. This course will assist the student in developing an awareness of the current trends in nursing, as well as the ethical and legal concerns of the profession, the role of professional organizations and the need for continuing education in Nursing. In addition, students will learn how to apply for licensure to practice professional nursing.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Prerequisites are NUR 111, NUR 180, and NUR 201.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- Describe nursing and key events and/or elements in its development.
- List the formal characteristics of a profession and discuss nursing with regard to these characteristics.
- Distinguish between the Associate Degree Nurse and BSN prepared nurse.
- Describe an associate degree nursing program in terms of educational focus, competencies, functions and roles, especially as they relate to changes in health care delivery system.
- Relate nursing issues of incompetency and chemical dependency in the work place to possible disciplinary measures.
- Discuss the legal aspects of nursing practice.
- Discuss ethical/bio-ethical and multi-cultural issues/concerns in nursing practice.
- Develop an awareness of the need for nurses to demonstrate professional responsibility and accountability.
- Identify career choices for the Associate Degree Nurse.
- Discuss the realities of employment in Nursing, i.e., reality shock and burnout.
- Identify professional organizations for and about nursing.
- Demonstrate the need for continuing education through participation in workshops, conferences and/or obtaining advanced degrees.
- Initiate the internalization of the values and norms of the profession of nursing into student’s own self-concept.
- Develop a commitment to becoming a member of the profession of Nursing.
- Develop a personal understanding of service learning through critical reflector.

Major Topics to be included

- Nursing Education
- Roles of ADN graduate
- Legal Implications
- Application for Licensure
- Reality Shock/burnout
- Ethical Implications