NVCC COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
NUR 135 - DRUG DOSAGE CALCULATIONS (2 CR.)

Course Description

Teaches apothecary, metric, household conversion; reading of drug orders and labels. Provides a practical approach to learning to prepare dosages and solutions. Includes calculating intravenous flow rates and pediatric dosages. Lecture 2 hours per week. Lecture 2 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This elective is designed for the student to demonstrate and apply the use of critical thinking skills related to medication administration. The course promotes the utilization of quantitative reasoning and safe and effective application of medication administration.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Program-placed, pre-program placed nursing students or by special arrangement with instructor.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Perform calculations needed for safe and effective administration of oral, parenteral, and intravenous medication for clients across the life cycle.

2. Identify approved abbreviations and standard terminology for medication administration

3. Utilize clinical decision making/critical thinking when calculating drug dosages.

4. Identify evidence based principles and practices for safe and effective medication administration.

5. Evaluate the appropriateness and accuracy of medication orders.

Major Topics to be included

1. Review systems of measurement: apothecary, metric, and household conversion
2. Methods of medication administration and calculation
3. Oral and parenteral dosage calculation
4. Intravenous fluid and medication calculation
5. Special circumstances: heparin, insulin and pediatric dosages