Pacific Lutheran University

School of Nursing

12180 Park Ave. So.

Tacoma, WA 98447

RN REFRESHER COURSE

Syllabus

Adapted from Application Narrative 2018

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PLU is on the traditional lands of the Nisqually, Puyallup, Squaxin Island and Steilacoom peoples; we acknowledge and respect the traditional caretakers of this land.

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF NURSING
Center for Continued Nursing Learning
RN Refresher Course

Introduction:

Lifelong learning is one component of nursing professional practice. Adult learners have a wealth of experience to draw from as they return to active nursing practice. As adult learners, you are able to articulate your learning needs and the best way that you learn as well as a have a variety of nursing experiences to build on. Active involvement in the learning process helps to meet the adult learners'' needs. Each of you are a valuable asset to the nursing community with your unique background and varied nursing experiences. This course is taught by Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) faculty.

1. Course Description:
The RN Refresher Course is an annual course offered through the Center for Continued Nursing Learning (CCNL). It is designed to help nurses who have allowed their registered nursing license to lapse or become inactive for longer than 3 years and/or if a refresher is required by the state board of nursing. A nurse with an active license who is interested in returning to clinical practice or who does not have recent nursing experience may want to take this course as a refresher for current nursing practice and skills. The purpose is to prepare the inactive Registered Nurse for current employment with adult clients. The nurse will meet the Washington State Professional Nursing requirements for the currency of practice outlined in the RCW and WAC. The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission monitors these requirements.

This hybrid program combines self-directed, independent study modules, on-campus classroom content, skills lab component, and supervised clinical practice experiences. Students will complete a minimum of forty (40) hours of Core Content and forty (40) hours of Specialty Content, practice skills instruction in a faculty-directed skills lab setting, and experience 160 hours of precepted clinical with a licensed Registered Nurse to ensure safe and up-to-date practice competencies. The clinical hours will be divided into eighty (80) hours of practicum will be in a long-term care facility, and then eighty (80) hours of practicum in an acute care setting. The course takes approximately 3-4 months to complete. Upon successful completion of all components of the program, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion and a copy will be sent to the Nursing Commission.
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2. Placement in Curriculum:
The course is offered through Center for Continued Nursing Learning (CCNL). It is designed to prepare the inactive Registered Nurse for current employment with adult clients. It is not a part of the regular nursing curriculum.

3. Class Schedule and Classroom
The one week on campus class is held in the Clinical Learning and Simulation Center at GFCM. The one-week class schedule is posted in a separate attachment. It consists of classroom review, skills lab practice including safe medication administration and dosage calculations, assessment techniques and simulation experiences. This session must be completed before students start in clinical agencies.

4. Faculty/Staff Information:

Supervising Faculty:
Barbara Haberman, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean & Professor of Nursing
 School of Nursing
253.535.7672

Director of CCNL(working hybrid):
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Program coordinator:
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Lead Faculty:
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5. **Course Objectives**:
   1. Describe and demonstrate currently accepted practice guidelines for the management of commonly encountered adult medical-surgical conditions in a variety of settings.
   2. Apply the nursing process to the management of commonly encountered adult medical-surgical conditions in a variety of settings
   3. Describe and demonstrate the techniques used for systematic, focused health assessment of the adult client.
   4. Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural needs of the client across the lifespan.
   5. Verbalize current professional practice standards and the legal and ethical dimensions of patient care.
   6. Develop or discover a renewed sense of self-confidence as a professional nurse.

6. **Instructional Materials and Technologies**

Methods of Instruction include student independent preparation with assigned readings, online resources, videos, lecture, discussion, individual conferences, post tests and exams, laboratory instruction and practice, simulation participation, return demonstration and check-off. The Sigma Theta Tau International Return to Nursing: A Refresher Program online module will be incorporated as preparatory material for the students and augmented by evidence-based practice.

Skills Lab, Clinicals, and Simulations

These components of nursing courses are an integral part of the nursing program. Successful demonstration of nursing skills is vital to ensure safe nursing practice in the clinical agencies. Active participation in lab is essential to learning. Although **attendance at all scheduled lab, simulations, and clinicals are mandatory – you must not attend if you are experiencing symptoms of an illness**. If you are ill, every attempt will be made to assist you to complete the assignments at a later date or via Zoom. Students are required to wear a scrub top, closed toed shoes and name badge to all skills labs, simulations. During clinical activities (see dress code policy in PLU Undergraduate School of Nursing Student Handbook), students should wear grey scrubs. Prepare for these learning experiences by completing the assigned learning activities.

See the University's COVID 19 pandemic information webpage for current policies pertaining to health directives, masking, social distancing, cleaning learning spaces, and so on. Student are encouraged to check for updates daily throughout the semester. All students and campus employees must follow university, county, and state health directives. Every attempt will be made to notify students of changes during the semester via announcements in Sakai.

a. Required:
The academic facilities for program delivery are those of the PLU School of Nursing, Clinical Learning and Simulation Center. On-line components will be managed via the Sakai Learning Management

System utilized at PLU as well as utilize the SIGMA Return to Nursing modules online. Students will be expected to have access to a personal computer to complete the online portion of the course.

b. Recommended:

The RN Refresher students are provided a list of resources on the Sakai platform for the class. Since many students are already RNs, there may be a personal library of resources. The students are given the option of selecting additional resources which they feel are needed for their personal use.

7. <u>Course Content</u>:

The schedule of topics and links is provided in a separate Appendix.

8. <u>Evaluation Methods:</u>

Enrolled students' competencies will be evaluated through written assignments, post tests and exams, and lab skills check-offs. Completion of theory content is required before the on-campus classroom/lab sessions. Quiz and exam grades require a minimum 71% for satisfactory performance. Completion of learning modules is required before laboratory classes. Return demonstration of selected psychomotor skills is required at a satisfactory level. Clinical performance will be evaluated satisfactory /unsatisfactory based on feedback from the preceptor and the clinical faculty interactions with the student.

9. <u>Description of assignments</u>:

Students will pass (at 75%) a safe dosage calculation quiz that includes math calculations of medications doses (po and IV) and IV drip rates.

b. Students will complete one nursing care plan done during week on campus.

c. Students will maintain the clinical skills check off

d. Students will keep a log of clinical hours

10. <u>Final Grade</u>:

Pass/Satisfactory or Fail/Unsatisfactory

Maintain professional conduct

11. <u>Course Academic Policies:</u>

a. **Attendance/tardiness**: The RN Refresher student is expected to attend the one week on campus classes and be present for clinical dates according to the preceptor schedule that has been agreed upon. Students are expected to be on time for classes and for clinical. It is considered unprofessional to be absent or tardy unless there are extenuating circumstances. Since the WA State Nursing Commission requires a specific number of hours for this course, missing time in this course will not meet the requirements for completion. Absence/tardiness time cannot be made up. There will not be a refund for loss of time in the course.

b. **Class participation**: RN Refresher students are expected to participate in class and lab to maximize their learning experience. An active learning environment will be promoted in the course.

c. **Submission of assignments:** RN Refresher students are expected to submit assignments in a timely manner, according to the date identified by the instructor.

d. **Taking tests/exams**: The course is self-paced. Students are expected to complete all the theory tests prior to the on-campus class. Theory tests are within the Sigma modules. The student should review the psychomotor skills content prior to lab. The psychomotor lab competency check off will be performed in the lab after the student has time to practice.

e. **Late assignments**: RN Refresher students are expected to submit assignments in a timely manner, according to the date identified by the instructor. If assignments are submitted late, it could influence the ability of the student to complete the course satisfactorily.

f. **Missed test/assignments:** RN Refresher students are expected to submit assignments in a timely manner, according to the date identified by the instructor. If assignments are not submitted or tests not completed, it will influence the ability of the student to complete the course satisfactorily.

g. **Course communication between student and faculty**: The RN Refresher student is expected to maintain open communication with course faculty and other School of Nursing staff, as

necessary. Any student issues/concerns should be brought to the attention of the faculty in a timely manner. Faculty will maintain communication with RN Refresher students by posting on the Sakai website and personal email/mobile phone.

h. **Classroom, Skills Lab, Simulation, and Clinical learning times** are reserved for instructional purposes and will be utilized as such. Out of respect for the class, please refrain from attempts to deviate from the scheduled subject matter. Students are welcome to make an appointment with the instructor to discuss policy issues/questions not directly related to the scheduled subject matter.

i. Technology and electronics: (Adapted from RN Refresher Program Student Handbook)

RN Refresher Nurse students are welcome to utilize social media but must be very careful in posting information and stories about clinical experiences on social media sites as these may be breaches of patient privacy and confidentiality, which is a violation of state and federal laws. Instances of inappropriate use of social and electronic media may be reported to the School of Nursing and/or Board of Nursing.   The School of Nursing and/or Board of Nursing may investigate reports of inappropriate disclosures on social media sites by a nurse on the grounds of:
  • Unprofessional conduct;
  • Unethical conduct;
  • Moral turpitude (defined as conduct that is considered contrary to community standards of
     justice, honesty or good morals);
  • Mismanagement of patient records;
  • Revealing a privilege communication; and
  • Breach of confidentiality

If the allegations are supported, the nurse may face disciplinary action by the School of Nursing and/or the Washington Nursing Commission, including a reprimand or sanction, removal from the RN Refresher program, assessment of a monetary fine, temporary or permanent loss of licensure, as well as potential civil and criminal penalties. "A nurse may face personal liability and be individually sued for defamation, invasion of privacy or harassment. Particularly flagrant misconduct on social media websites may also raise liability under state or federal regulations focused on preventing patient abuse or exploitations." (NCSBN, n.d.) For more information on Social media use see the social media policies by the NCSBN.

   In addition, RN Refresher nurses need to adhere to professional boundaries. To maintain the professional therapeutic relationship nurses should refrain from "friending" or "following" patients and their families. Students should also refrain from "friending" or "following" the personal social networking sites of School of Nursing faculty/ staff while a student at PLU. Students should be aware of professional boundaries and confidential communications within the School of Nursing, just as in the clinical setting. Social media and electronic communication methods such as Snap chat, TikTok Linked-in, web conferencing tools, etc. should be only utilized between students and School of Nursing faculty/staff if it promotes student learning, professional development, academic advising, or assists the faculty/staff in educational pedagogy. Social media and electronic communication methods should still adhere to professional boundaries.

12. **<u>University & School of Nursing Academic Policy</u>**:
    a. Academic integrity
    Please read your School of Nursing Student Handbook (on Sakai) regarding issues of academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity include *but are not limited to* cheating, lying, plagiarism, and misrepresentation of information in oral or written form (presenting material as though it was yours alone when in fact it is all or partially someone else's work.) Please realize that <u>both the receiving of information from others and the giving of information to others inappropriately</u> is dishonest. Breeches in academic integrity can significantly alter your passing the course, and result

in a failure for the course and/or dismissal from the RN Refresher program. Faculty members determine grades within a course but issues of integrity for RN Refresher students will be referred to the School of Nursing Director of the Center for Continued Nursing Learning and the Dean of the School of Nursing for additional review and action. Additionally, the University's Academic Dishonesty Hearing Panel may be utilized and the Washington State Nursing Commission.

b. **Academic Accommodations**
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information, or if you need other special arrangements, please communicate this with the course instructor as soon as possible.

If you have questions concerning the services available for students with disabilities at PLU, please contact the Center for Continued Nursing Learning and or the Office of Accessibility and Accommodations. Classroom or clinical accommodations will be provided only after a Letter of Accommodation from the Office of Accessibility and Accommodations has been received. It is recommended the student and faculty have a discussion regarding specific support or arrangements needed to access any accommodations and the contents of the Letter of Accommodation.

c. **Essential qualifications:**
The Essential Qualifications for Participation in School of Nursing Degree Programs (See School of Nursing Student Handbook) constitute important elements of academic performance criteria in the PLU School of Nursing degree programs. As such, the Essential Qualifications become part of the criteria by which students are evaluated for satisfactory performance and program progressions. The Essential Qualifications reflect a sample of the performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of all nursing programs at PLU. All new and current PLU School of Nursing students are expected to embody these skills. Nursing students must attest to and demonstrate essential motor, sensory/observation, communication, cognitive, and behavioral/emotional skills necessary to be successful in the nursing profession.

d. **Notice of Deficiency**
The School of Nursing faculty may enact a Performance Progress Alert (PPA) for RN Refresher students who are not meeting the Essential Qualifications or not performing to academic, clinical, lab, or professional standards at any point in the Refresher program.

Performance Progress Alert (PPA) will be given for the following reasons (non-exclusive list):
- Late assignments > 24 hours late
- Unexcused absences
- Unprofessional behavior in-class or online
- Unsatisfactory performance in clinical
- Failure to maintain a course average of 71% on exams

e. **Student Support Services**
A complete list of student support services is available on University's Student Life website including but not limited to the following:

1. *Center for Student Success* is in the Mortevedt library and has resources for students.
2. *Office of Accessibility and Accommodations*
3. *Library*
   The Mortvedt Library Services website is your portal to the PLU library collection. You can search our library catalog, online databases, indexes, and encyclopedias, and access most of our periodical collection online. Other library services include: Inter-Library Loan, Computer labs, Study rooms, The Writing Center, and Help Desk
4. *Writing Center*

The Writing Center can assist you in writing your papers by developing an outline, revising drafts, and demonstrating academic integrity. Students are expected to make use of the writing center independently and pro-actively, as needed to improve writing skills at all levels.

5. *IT Help Desk*

The Help Desk can assist you with your laptop computer. PLU provides free antivirus software for all students (www.plu.edu/anti-virus). All computers on campus must have functional antivirus software before a computer can be connected to the network.

Please contact the course faculty should you have questions about contents in this syllabus document.