The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Medications: Theory and Practice

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
NUR	2000	90964	2, 2009	ONC	1.00	Fraser Coast

Academic group: FOSCI
Academic org: FOS004
Student contribution band: National Priority Nursing
ASCED code: 060301

STAFFING

Examiner: Julie Harris
Moderator: Joachim Ferrer

REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in Program: BNUR

OTHER REQUISITES

Recommended Prior Study: MAT1008 and NUR1140

RATIONALE

Medications are used in the treatment of both acute and chronic conditions. The responsibility of correct medication regimes has become increasingly important. Nurses must accept the responsibility and obligations which will ensure safe administration of medications.

SYNOPSIS

This course is designed to ensure that nursing students understand the basis of how medications are administered, absorbed, metabolized and excreted. The information is applied to the nurses' role in the therapeutic administration of drugs so that the student becomes familiar and competent in medication administration. The mathematical processes involved in medication calculations will be revised and assessed so that students will be able to calculate with a high level of accuracy. These two aspects of therapeutics will be integrated and complemented so that the student will become aware of the importance of the safe administration of medications and begin to be proficient in methods of drug administration.

OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. demonstrate an ability to apply the basic principles of pharmacodynamics to a selected number of drugs and drug routes (academic and professional literacy skills); (ANMC Competencies 1, 2, 4) (Exam);

2. describe the routes of drug administration and the physiology involved in drug absorption and excretion (academic and professional literacy skills); (ANMC Competencies 1, 2, 5, 7, 8) (Exam);
3. identify and demonstrate correct principles of medication administration in simulated situations and in case studies on exams (academic and professional literacy skills); (ANMC Competencies 3, 4, 6, 7, 8) (Lab Attendance and Participation, Psychomotor Skills Assessment, Exam);
4. demonstrate under supervision the skills required to administer medications appropriately and accurately (academic and professional literacy skills); (ANMC Competencies1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8) (Lab Attendance and Participation, Psychomotor Skills Assessment);
5. demonstrate accuracy in calculating a range of medication calculations (academic and professional literacy skills); (ANMC Competencies 7, 10) (Online Test).
6. adhere to the legal and professional regulations for the administration of medications. (academic and professional literacy skills); (ANMC Competencies 1, 2) (Psychomotor Skills, Exam)

TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Calculations	25.00
2.	Pharmacodynamics	15.00
3.	Medication administration	60.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Instructional guide for medications: theory and practice 2009, USQ, Toowoomba

Crisp, J & Taylor, C (eds) 2009, *Potter & Perry's fundamentals of nursing students*, 3rd edn, Elsevier Australia, Marrickville, NSW.

(Australian adaption)

Reid-Searl, K, Dwyer, T, Moxam, L & Reid-Spiers, J 2007, *Nursing students maths & medications survival guide*, Pearson Education, Australia.

Tiziani, Adriana 2006, *Havard's nursing guide to drugs*, 7th edn, Harcourt, Sydney.

Tollefson, J 2007, *Clinical psychomotor skills: assessment tools for nursing students*, 3rd edn, Social Science Press, Tuggerah, NSW.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Australian Medicines Handbook 2007, *Australian medicines handbook*, 8th edn, Australian Medicines Handbook, Adelaide.

(Available online via library catalogue)

Brown, D & Edwards, H (eds) 2005, *Lewis's medical-surgical nursing: assessment and management of clinical problems*, Elsevier, Australia.

Bryant, B, Knights, K & Salerno, E 2003, *Pharmacology for health professional*, Harcourt, Marrickville, NSW.

Bullock, S, Manias, E & Galbraith, A 2006, *Fundamentals of pharmacology*, 5th edn, Pearson Education Australia, Frenchs Forest, NSW.

Jenkins, G, Kemnitz, C & Tortora, G 2006, *Anatomy and physiology: from science to life*, 6th edn, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, New York.

(ISBN: 047081280X (Pack includes textbook, DVD & WileyPlus Access card for onlline access))

Lim, AG 2008, *Australia New Zealand nursing & midwifery drug handbook*, 4th edn, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Sydney.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessments	2.00
Computer Managed Assessment	5.00
Examinations	2.00
Laboratory	22.00
Lectures	22.00
Private Study	120.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
DRUG CALCULATIONS 1	20.00	2.00	20 Jul 2009 (see note 1)
DRUG CALCULATIONS 2	20.00	2.00	20 Jul 2009
DRUG CALCULATIONS 3	20.00	2.00	20 Jul 2009
DRUG CALCULATIONS 4	20.00	2.00	20 Jul 2009
DRUG CALCULATIONS 5	20.00	2.00	20 Jul 2009
PSYCHOMOTOR SKILLS ASSESSMENT	20.00	29.00	09 Oct 2009 (see note 2)
LAB ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION	1.00	1.00	30 Oct 2009
PTA OF 2HR RESTRICTED EXAM CMA	20.00	20.00	END S2 (see note 3)
PTB OF 2HR RESTRICTED EXAM S/A	40.00	40.00	END S2 (see note 4)

NOTES

1. Drug calculations CMA's will be assessed online every second Friday from week 3. There will be a window of two (2) hrs in which to log on. The test must be completed within one (1) hour from log in.
2. Students will be scheduled for psychomotor skills assessment. Please see course overview, marking criteria and dates placed on study desk.
3. Examination dates will be available during the Semester. Please refer to the examination timetable when published.
4. Examination dates will be available during the Semester. Please refer to the examination timetable when published.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:

It is the students' responsibility to participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures and labs) scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course. This extends to the notion that students will thus be informed of course-related activities and administration. The skills components of this course will be taught in on-campus laboratory sessions. During these Laboratory Sessions, students will engage in practice of techniques and application of knowledge in a variety of situations. Attendance at all the Laboratory Sessions and/or completion of one or more alternative activities at a standard judged to be appropriate by the examiner is required before the 1 mark for the workshops can be awarded. If unavoidable circumstances (medical or personal) prevent a student from attending, the student must contact the examiner to arrange an alternative activity. This will entail either a written assignment or demonstration of competence in a set activity (or both) based on the material covered in the missed session at a time to be arranged with the examiner. If no attempt is made to contact the examiner to arrange an alternate activity and/or to produce a medical certificate, the student will have deemed to FAIL the course.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without (prior) approval of the examiner then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment may apply for each working day late up to ten working days at which time a mark of zero may be recorded. No assignments will be accepted after model answers have been posted.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must a) attend and participate in 100% of the Laboratory sessions offered to them; b) achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course. Students who do not qualify for a Passing grade may, at the discretion of the Examiner, be assigned additional work to demonstrate to the Examiner that they have achieved the required standard. It is expected that such students will have gained at least 45% of the total marks available for all summative assessment items. Lab attendance and drug calculations are linked to the practical skills which are fundamental of safe nursing practice. This has been recognised by Queensland Nursing Council and the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6 Examination information:
The final exam is 'restricted'. Candidates are allowed access only to specific materials during a Restricted Examination. The only materials that candidates may use in the restricted examination for this course are: writing materials (non-electronic and free from material which could give the student an unfair advantage in the examination); calculators which cannot hold textual information or be programmed (students must indicate on their examination paper the make and model of any calculator(s) they use during the examination). Students whose first language is not English, may, take an appropriate unmarked non-electronic translation dictionary (but not technical dictionary) into the examination. Dictionaries with any handwritten notes will not be permitted. Translation dictionaries will be subject to perusal and may be removed from the candidate's possession until appropriate disciplinary action is completed if found to contain material that could give the candidate an unfair advantage.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.

8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

9 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply

to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

10 Students can expect that questions in assessment items in this course may draw upon knowledge and skills that they can reasonable be expected to have acquired before enrolling in the course. This includes knowledge contained in pre-requisite courses and appropriate communication, information literacy, analytical, critical thinking, problem solving or numeracy skills. Students who do not possess such knowledge and skills should not expect to achieve the same grades as those students who do possess them.