The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Occupational Health Nursing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-Nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<td>5630</td>
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<td>1, 2003</td>
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Academic Group: FOSCI
Academic Org: FOS004
HECS Band: 2
ASCED Code: 061301

STAFFING
Examiner: Janet Rankin
Moderator: Roslyn Reilly

RATIONALE
Nurses have been responsible for the delivery of occupational health and safety nursing services to employees since the early 20th century. Over time, the role of the nurse has evolved from a medical model focused health delivery service to one based upon the principles of primary health care. This change - from a emphasis on treatment of ill and injured workers - to one of prevention, has occurred unevenly in Australia. Some employers encourage a preventative approach whilst others continue to believe that a treatment role is the most cost-effective use of nursing services. Nurses, who in the past were educated in a medical model of health service delivery, often are unsure of their role and the cost-benefits of providing a health service which not only delivers primary care, but is based upon the principles of primary health care. This Course aims to educate the nurse to ensure that occupational health nurses provide the competent and quality care necessary in the late 1990s and early 21st century.

SYNOPSIS
This course critically examines the role of the occupational health nurse. It will begin by developing an understanding of the historical development of occupational health nursing in Australia and overseas. Additionally, it will examine the impact of the dominance of the medical model of health service delivery and statutory and non-statutory requirements on the development of the occupational health nursing role. Students will be expected to examine and reflect upon their own nursing practice and to identify how their current role has evolved. The course will examine specific aspects of the occupational health nursing role - the treatment of ill and injured clients and rehabilitation of ill and injured clients into the workplace. Students will be expected to critically examine their role in these activities and discuss the impact of employer and union expectations on the role of the nurse. The student will be expected to make recommendations on how occupational health nurses can
provide a primary health care service to employees and how the change in health service delivery focus will impact upon occupational health nursing roles now and in the next century.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the history of occupational health nursing in Australia and overseas;
- critically analyse the role of the occupational health nurse and occupational health services;
- critically discuss the difference in health outcomes between a reactive and preventive approach to occupational health care;
- critically examine ethical issues in occupational health nursing practice and explore ethical decision making;
- critically examine the role of an injury and illness treatment service in occupational health services; and
- critically discuss the occupational health nurse’s role in the provision of rehabilitation and counselling services.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. The History of Occupational Health Nursing</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The Role of the Occupational Health Nurse</td>
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<td>3. The Future of Occupational Health Nursing</td>
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<td>4. Occupational Health Services</td>
<td>14.00</td>
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<td>5. Ethics in Occupational Health Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Rehabilitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Injury and Illness Management</td>
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<td>8. Counselling</td>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the 'Book Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au by entering the author or title of the text.


(This publication is also available from the ACOHN Secretariat, P O Box 508, Mulgrave, Victoria 3170.)

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.

Each module includes a list of further readings. It is not a course requirement that you read these, however they may be of value to you if you wish to study the subject further. You are encouraged to read widely around the subject to develop your knowledge and understanding.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
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<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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<td>Private Study</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2500 WORD ESSAY</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<td>1500 WORD CASE STUDY</td>
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<td>25.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>13 Jun 2003</td>
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IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. Attendance requirements:
   There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility 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 and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

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 available for each assessment item.

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 10% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment will apply for each working day late.

4. Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must submit all of the summative assessment items and achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for those items.
5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6 Examination information:
There is no examination in this course.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.

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/SECARIAT/calendar/Part5/ or in the printed version of the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

9 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner.

10 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner.