

C.A.G.S. Occupational Health Nursing
Course Descriptions

NUR 571: Practice of Occupational Health

Focuses on the assessment of workplace hazards, the physiology and biomechanical aspects of work, and a practical problem-solving approach to health problems in various work settings. Emphasizes the relationship between working conditions and health, with special reference to the recognition, measurement, and control of occupational hazards.

Course Activities: Oral and written projects, class discussions, walk-through field trips to local industries (field trips may take up to four hours).

Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor (4 credits)

NUR 572: Occupational Health Policy and Administration

Examines the legal, economic, and political foundations of occupational health activities in the United States. Discusses the roles of government, unions, corporations, and research organizations. Helps students acquire an understanding of management functions in corporations.

Course Activities: Students develop the necessary knowledge and skills in the above areas to apply medico-legal and risk management principles to achieve a healthful workplace

Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor (2 credits)

NUR 574: Introduction to Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Overview of Occupational and Environmental Medicine including: the diagnosis and management of illnesses following exposure to specific workplace substances, environmental and community hazards, such as asbestos, lead, organic solvents, and vibration; methods of diagnosis of early organ system effects of chemicals and techniques for assessing impairment and disability; as well as, medicolegal aspects of occupational health.

Course Activities: Mid-term exam and Final exam. One case-based, written project.

Prerequisite: NUR 582 and NUR582A; may take concurrent with NUR 584 and NUR 584B (2 credits)

Nur 575: Ergonomics/Human Factors

Emphasizes the design of the job "to fit the worker" in terms of both productivity and the prevention of injuries. Specific problems are investigated which result from the nature of the job itself, e.g., musculoskeletal disorders including low back pain and repetitive stress injuries of the upper extremity and human error. Fundamental ergonomic topics, such as human physiology, occupational biomechanics, epidemiology, and work place design, are considered in the development of good job design principles.

Course Activities: Lectures and group discussions, and a term project analyzing a real world job. (2 credits)

NUR 585
Health in the Workplace I

This is an introductory covering the principles of occupational health nursing and toxicology. The focus is on health in the workplace including workplace risk assessment and risk reduction. The course will be presented in two units. The first unit begins with a historical overview of the development of occupational health nursing and public health nursing including roles and responsibilities, health promotion, and scope of practice. The impact of regulatory policies and agencies on occupational health and safety are discussed. Issues regarding industrial hygiene, safety, worker protection programs and ergonomics are analyzed. Part two will analyze principles of toxicology including physical, chemical and biologic agents and their effect and implications on the employee, the employer and the interdisciplinary occupational health and safety team. Case studies will be utilized in the application of occupational health principles to the care of employees. This course also has 4 hours of clinical each week in an occupational health setting. (3 credits)

NUR 586
Health in the Workplace II

This is the second in a two part course covering the principles of occupational health nursing. It offers the student the opportunity to synthesize and apply principles learned in Health in the Workplace I as well interdisciplinary courses taken at Harvard School of Public Health. Through the completion of a professional issues project, the student will develop a broad perspective regarding the role of the occupational health nurse practitioner in the workplace. Case studies will be utilized in the application of occupational health principles to the care of employees. This course also has 8 hours of clinical per week in an occupational health setting. (3 credits)