DNP Core Courses

NUR 670: Health Policy (3)

The primary objective of this course is to empower the DNP student with the tools to influence health policy. The course will analyze the legal, ethical and social issues inherent in policy development. Students will consider the many dimensions of the present health care crisis such as cost, access, equity, quality, globalization and provision of care to an aging population. Students will also learn the presentation of policy analyses in written, graphic and oral forms.

NUR 660: Evidence-based Practice/Nursing Informatics (3)

This course will provide the student with the skills to evaluate and apply the best available evidence-based knowledge and technology in solving clinical practice problems. The student will learn critical appraisal skills to determine the quality and applicability of information for practice. The use of electronic medical records, including implementation and implications for practice, will be considered.

NUR 620: Ethical and Legal Issues for Advanced Practice (3)

This course will address the underlying historical, philosophical and theoretical perspectives in ethics from a biomedical and nursing perspective. Ethical issues will be addressed in a case-based approach. Students will attend ethics rounds and participate in ethics advisory boards at health care facilities. The course will also explore legal issues in advanced practice and in the health care system. Topics will include scope of practice, state and federal practice regulations, risk management/malpractice, and legal issues in practice ownership/management.

NUR 630: Professional Leadership and Practice Change (3)

This course is designed to advance the student's ability to use leadership and management theory in nursing practice within current and emerging organizational systems. The course will provide students with an introduction to the theories and experience in practice of a key role of leadership: *transforming culture by means of effective implementation of change.* This course will interface with the students' Capstone Project, assisting students in the process of institutional change.

NUR 640: Research Methods in Advanced Practice (3)

This course will enable students to achieve skills required for conducting and evaluating practice-based research. Topics will include the following: needs assessment; program planning and evaluation; the application of quantitative/qualitative methods in the study of practice-related phenomena; grant-writing and funding for practice-based research. Students will begin their clinical project, considering the problem, research question (s) and appropriate research design.

NUR 650: Epidemiology (3)

The goals of this course are to enhance the ability of advanced practice nurses to evaluate healthcare practices and delivery systems; to design programs to change practice; and to evaluate programmatic efforts to improve health care. These goals will be met by students' becoming critical consumers of public health, nursing, and medical literature and understanding the basic principles and methods of epidemiology, including disease (outcome) measures, measures of association, study design options, bias, confounding and effect modification. Seminar projects will guide the analysis of programmatic changes to evaluate outcomes of practice, practice patterns, and systems of care within a practice setting, health care organization, or community against national benchmarks to determine variances in practice outcomes and population trends. A quality improvement data set will be used to evaluate quality improvement methodologies and to disseminate the results in a way that will influence healthcare executives to improve practice.

NUR 655: Biostatistics (3)

This course will enable students to apply statistical methods in research and program planning for advanced nursing practice. The student will acquire skills in design and implementation of epidemiological studies and health programs. The course will introduce students involved in clinical research to the practical application of regression analysis. Linear regression, logistic regression and proportional hazards survival models will be covered, as well as general concepts in model selection, goodness-of-fit and testing procedures.