American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Health Sciences
NURS505
Health Care Systems and Health Policy
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 weeks
Prerequisite: NURS502

Instructor Information

Please refer to the Instructor Profile on the course homepage for your instructor's contact information and biography.

Course Description (Catalog)

The master's prepared nurse must promote health, influence the health delivery system, and participate in policy advocacy to improve the health care outcomes of populations. Students will examine the effect of legal and regulatory processes on health care delivery at the institutional, local, state, and federal levels. Topics include health care economics and finance, quality improvement, patient safety, and political advocacy

Course Scope

This course is divided into 8 weeks and is designed to provide the learner with knowledge about health care systems and health policy as tools in the care of individuals, groups, and organizations in the roles of healthcare practitioner, leader, educator and researcher. Learners will analyze a health policy issue and develop/propose a health policy solution to address the issue. Weekly forums explore a diverse collection of health system and health policy trends, emphasizing the role of the master's prepared nurse.

Course Learning Objectives

The following objectives are aligned with the MSN Program Outcomes (PO):
1. Examine the effect of legal and regulatory processes on healthcare delivery at all levels (PO1, and 3)

2. Investigate the impact of nursing political advocacy on healthcare policy development (PO1, 2 and 4)
3. Evaluate the impact of healthcare economic and finance systems on nursing practice and health outcomes (PO3)
4. Analyze the role of the master's prepared nurse and healthcare leadership in developing policies that support nursing practice, efficient healthcare delivery and improvement of outcomes (PO1, 2, and 4)

Module Learning Objectives are located within the course.
Masters Essentials covered in this course include I, II, III, and IV.

Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due weekly as noted on the course outline and can include Forum questions and written assignments. Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Materials

Required Course Textbook:
All required readings and resources are available within MyClassroom.

Academic Writing Requirements:
The School of Health Sciences requires use of APA format and style and all students are encouraged to have a current copy of the *APA Publication Manual.* All written assignments are to be submitted in APA format style unless otherwise noted in the assignment directions.

Evaluation Procedures

Discussions
Please join the discussions each week. Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week will not be graded. The Discussions are for student interaction and input should be submitted before the week ends in order to fully participate in the discussions. Students should demonstrate their own knowledge in the discussions and avoid copying and pasting from websites. In this class there are 10 graded discussions. The Week 8 discussion is a Reflection discussion, and you will be graded on completion of the reflection questions, not on the content.

Guidelines:

- Post the initial response to each discussions by 11:55pm, ET, Wednesday
- Initial responses are to be original in content and demonstrate a thorough analysis of the topic.
- Reply to **_more than 2_** of your classmates in each forum by 11:55pm, ET, Sunday.
- Responses to classmates are significant to advance the discussions.
- All discussions can be accessed in the Discussions section of the course.
- Respond to all questions posed to you in your initial post by instructor and/or peers.

An initial post must precede the response posts to peers. An initial post received after Wednesday 11:55 pm will receive a 10% deduction for each day, for 3 days, prior to discussions being graded. This means the highest grade possible for a late submission of 3 days, is 70%. However, response posts are due by Sunday 11:55 pm. If response posts are not submitted by this time, the discussion is over. Therefore, no points can be awarded for collaboration, and the highest grade possible for late submission past 3 days is 60%.

Tests/ Quizzes
There are no tests/quizzes in this course.

Written Assignments
There are 5 written assignments due throughout the course. All assignment instructions and grading rubrics are located in the Assignments area of MyClassroom. Assignments are due by 11:55 pm EST on the Sunday of the week they are assigned, or as indicated in the Assignments area.

Course Grading Outline

Grading Instrument	Percentage of Final Grade
Discussion Forums (8 Forums)	**20%**
Week 1 Essay: Define the Context	**10%**
Week 2 Essay: State the Problem	**10%**
Week 3 Essay: Search for Evidence	**10%**
Week 4 Essay: Consider Different Policy Options	**10%**
Week 5 Essay: Project the Outcomes	**10%**
Week 6 Essay: Apply Evaluative Criteria	**10%**
Week 7 Essay: Weigh the Outcomes	**10%**
Week 8 Essay: Make the Decision	**10%**
Total	**100%**

Course Outline

Module	Topic	Learning Objectives	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
1	From an Idea to Law	1. Investigate how policies are developed, executed, and assessed at the local, state, federal and institutional levels (CO1)	As assigned	Introduction Discussion

Week 1 Discussion

Define the Context Essay |
| **Module** | **Topic** | **Learning Objectives** | **Reading(s)** | **Assignment(s)** |
| 2 | Introduction to Health Policy from an Advanced Nursing Perspective | 1. Examine the advanced nurse practice registered nurses role in translating health policy into practice (CO 4)
2. Investigate the registered nurses role in political activism and policy changes CO2, 4)
3. Analyze the registered nurses role in effective inter-professional collaboration with various internal stakeholders PO 2, 4) | As assigned | Week 2 Discussion

State the Problem Essay |
| **Module** | **Topic** | **Learning Objectives** | **Reading(s)** | **Assignment(s)** |
| 3 | Healthcare Reform and Finance | 1. Examine the implications of influence of healthcare reform and financial considerations on professional nursing practice and policy. (PO 3)
2. Identify key elements that impact strategy(s) considerations in advancing legislation or regulation. (PO1, 4) | As assigned | Week 3 Discussion

Search for Evidence Essay |
| **Module** | **Topic** | **Learning Objectives** | **Reading(s)** | **Assignment(s)** |
| 4 | Telehealth and Telemedicine

Health Policy and Special Populations | 1. Examine the impact of legal and regulatory processes on the access and delivery of healthcare, nursing practice and health outcomes. (PO 1, 3)
1.   2. Consider the effect of health policies which promote or impede equity and health outcomes in special populations. (PO 1,3) | As assigned | Week 4 Discussion

Qualitative Article Critique |
| **Module** | **Topic** | **Learning Objectives** | **Reading(s)** | **Assignment(s)** |
| 5 | Accountable Care Organizations

Role of Data Collection and nursing research in Healthcare Quality and Safety | 1. Summarize how data collection and nursing research is utilized to inform decisions for more effective workforce planning and policy making. (PO2 and 4)
1. | As assigned | Week 5 Discussion

Quantitative Critique Assignment |

	Professional Nursing Organizations and Policy			
Module	**Topic**	**Learning Objectives**	**Reading(s)**	**Assignment(s)**
6	State Health Professional Legislation: Nurse Practice Act Nursing Professional Organizations Global Nursing Perspectives	1. 1.Analyze how the recommendations of the IOM Report on the Future of Nursing are reflected in ongoing work to advance the nursing profession and improve health outcomes (PO2, 3 and 4)	As assigned	Week 6 Discussion Literature Matrix
Module	**Topic**	**Learning Objectives**	**Reading(s)**	**Assignment(s)**
7	Future of Master's prepared Roles APRN Advocacy and Activism to Advance Practice	Explore legislation, future roles, and potential barriers for the Master's prepared Registered Nurses at the institutional, state, and federal level (PO1, 2, 3, and 4) 1.	As assigned	Week 7 Discussion
Module	**Topic**	**Learning Objectives**	**Reading(s)**	**Assignment(s)**
8	Registered Nurses Roles in Future of Healthcare Practice Health Policy for Master's prepared Registered Nurses	1. Explore the registered nurses role as full partners in the redesign of healthcare policies on a local, state, national and global perspective (PO2 and 4)	As assigned	Week 8 Reflection Discussion PICOT Assignment

Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

> Drop/Withdrawal Policy
> Plagiarism Policy
> Extension Process and Policy
> Disability Accommodations

Nursing Program Policies

Assignment and Coursework Grading Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the designated due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. Failure to submit coursework by the designated due date will result in a ten percent (10%) penalty per day until three (3) days after the coursework is due. Therefore, after three (3) days, the maximum grade the student can achieve with a late submission will be a grade of 70% (C-). If a student is ill, has a family crisis, or will miss scheduled coursework deadlines for any reason, the student shall notify the instructor in advance if at all possible. Assignments will NOT be accepted more than seven (7) days after the due date unless prior arrangements have been made in advance of the due date.

Course Completion and Progression Requirements

For all capstone courses that begin after January 1, 2017, graduate students must earn a B- (80%) or better on their capstone thesis/project/paper and a B- (80%) or better in their capstone course to pass the course. This policy aligns with the comprehensive exam, which also requires a B- (80%) or better to pass. Graduate students must have at least a 3.0 GPA in order to graduate.