

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

# American Public University System

*The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind*

## **School of Health Sciences**

### **NURS694**

Community and Public Health Nursing  
Practicum with Capstone Project

**Credit Hours: 4**

**Length of Course: 16 weeks**

**Prerequisite: none**

## **Course Description (Catalog)**

This practicum provides community and public health nursing students the opportunity to implement population health programs. The emphasis is on working in the community setting to improve the health of communities and populations. The final 120 hours of clinical practice are required for completion of this practicum. The students will also focus in this capstone course on examining the implications of implementing population health programs. Students will evaluate personal leadership skills utilized to improve patient outcomes through evidence-based practices, quality improvement methods, outcomes measurement, and systems knowledge. All core and specialty courses must be completed before taking this course.

## **Course Scope**

During this 16-week course, students will complete 120 hours of supervised clinical practice in the community health setting. Each student will find a preceptor (who must meet specified criteria) to serve as their clinical preceptor, and with whom they will have the chance to work in an area of interest to apply concepts and practices associated with the roles of a community/public health nurse. Students will disseminate the results of their public health program through the hosting of an online forum discussion. Students will conduct a self-reflection to evaluate the implications of change to practice resulting from the implementation of their public health program and examine leadership competencies achieved. Students will examine challenges associated with the dissemination of evidence including legal and ethical issues and author an abstract for submission to a professional nursing journal or conference.

## **Course Learning Objectives**

The following objectives are aligned with the MSN Program Outcomes (PO):

1. Synthesize and apply advanced practice nursing concepts and skills to the role of the community and public health nurse.

2. Analyze social determinants of health that affect the health of a community.
3. Evaluate prevention strategies of communities to identify opportunities for improvement in health and disease prevention of vulnerable populations.
4. Enhance the health of a vulnerable population through interprofessional coordination, planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of a public health nursing intervention for a selected community.
5. Execute the use of leadership competencies in the dissemination of an evidence-based project.
6. Design a presentation to disseminate evidence directed towards improving practice and care environments.

Module Learning Objectives are located within the course.

Master's Essentials covered in this course include II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX.

### **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 MyClassroom will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due weekly as noted on the course outline and can include Discussions questions and written assignments. Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

### **Course Materials**

#### **Required Course Textbooks:**

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 9 graded discussions.

**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 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
Introduction Discussions	1%
Weekly Discussions	16%
Personal Practicum Goal Statement and Objectives (SMART) (Revised from NURS654)	3%
Capstone Project Written Report	20%
Portfolio	30%
1. Typhon Portfolio Setup (5%)	
2. Portfolio Welcome and Philosophy (5%)	
3. Portfolio Program Outcome (5%)	
4. Resume/CV and Cover Letter (5%)	
5. Portfolio MSN Concentration Outcomes (5%)	
6. Portfolio Abstract (5%)	

Peer Critique of Presentation (Week 8) 5%	5%
Dissemination of Evidence Presentation	20%
Evaluation of Achievement (self-evaluation)	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Course Outline</b>				
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
1	Introduction to Community/ Public Health Program Implementation	1. Implement a community/public health program to enhance the health of a vulnerable population	As assigned	Introduction Discussion  Personal Practicum Goals and Objectives (S.M.A.R.T.)  Complete 10 practicum hours this week.
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
2	Program Implementation	1. Implement a community/public health program to enhance the health of a vulnerable population	As assigned	Week 2 Discussion  Complete 10 practicum hours this week.
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
3	Program Implementation	1. Implement a community/public health program to enhance the health of a vulnerable population	As assigned	Complete 10 practicum hours this week.
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
4	Program Implementation	1. Implement a community/public health program to enhance the health of a vulnerable population	As assigned	Complete 10 practicum hours this week.
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
5	Program Implementation	1. Implement a community/public health program to enhance the health of a vulnerable population	As assigned	Complete 10 practicum hours this week.  Ensure preceptor submits practicum progress report to Typhon
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
6	Program Implementation	1. Implement a community/public health program to enhance the	As assigned	Complete 10 practicum hours this week.

		health of a vulnerable population		
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
7	Program Implementation	1. Implement a community/public health program to enhance the health of a vulnerable population	As assigned	Complete 10 practicum hours this week.
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
8	Program Implementation	1. Implement a community/public health program to enhance the health of a vulnerable population	As assigned	Week 8 Discussion  Typhon Portfolio Setup  Complete 10 practicum hours this week.
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
9	Professional Portfolio	1. Construct a professional portfolio to maintain evidence of learning. 2. Demonstrate achievement of professional requirements.	As assigned	Portfolio Welcome and Philosophy  Complete 10 practicum hours this week.
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
10	Philosophy	1. Define a personal philosophy of nursing. 2. Construct a personal philosophy statement.	As assigned	Capstone Project Written Report  Complete 10 practicum hours this week.
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
11	Dissemination of Evidence	1. Develop an evidence-based practice poster presentation. 2. Disseminate evidence-based project findings in a discussion forum.	As assigned	Week 11 Discussion  Portfolio Program Outcomes  Complete 10 practicum hours this week.
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
12	Self-Reflection & Professional Development	1. Articulate the benefits of self-reflection. 2. Promote professional growth through reflection.	As assigned	Ensure preceptor submits practicum progress report to Typhon  Dissemination of EBP Presentation (poster presentation)

				Evaluation of Achievement (of goals)  Complete 10 practicum hours this week.
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
13	Professional Portfolio	1. Analyze the implications of an evidence-based projects.	As assigned	Week 13 Discussion  Portfolio Resume or CV
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
14	Philosophy	1. Articulate the benefits of life-long learning. 2. Promote professional growth through life-long learning. 3. Construct a cover letter to accommodate an abstract submission.	As assigned	Week 14 Discussion  Portfolio MSN Concentration Outcomes
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
15	Dissemination of Evidence	1. Articulate the relevance of peer review to evidence- based practice.	As assigned	Week 15 Discussion  Portfolio Abstract
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
16	Self-Reflection & Professional Development	1. Differentiate among publications to identify a peer review journal 2. Develop an abstract for submission to a peer reviewed nursing journal or conference	As assigned	Week 16 Discussion  Peer Critique

## Policies

### 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.

### **Use of Online Sources such as Course Hero**

In addition to the university's plagiarism policy, students who are found to have submitted materials plagiarized from any online source, such as Course Hero, will be reported to the university and may [fail the course](#) and/or [be expelled](#) APUS. Use of said materials is academic dishonesty and will not be tolerated.

### **Self-Plagiarism**

Each course in the program has unique course learning objectives designed to build professional knowledge and skills. To accomplish these learning objectives, all work submitted for a course must be original and cannot be a resubmission of one's own previous work. When repeating a course, students must submit newly created work as well.

### **Course Completion and Progression Requirements**

For all capstone courses that begin after January 1, 2017, master's 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. Master's students must have at least a 3.0 GPA in order to graduate. Please see the [End of Program Assessment Manual](#) for more information.

*For more information regarding these final course requirements, please refer to the End of Program Assessment Manual for Graduate Studies found in the Trefry Library in the Master's Studies Resource Center.*

## **Communications**

### **Student Communication**

To reach the instructor, please communicate through the MyClassroom email function accessible from the Classlist of the Course Tools menu, where the instructor and students email addresses are listed, or via the Office 365 tool on the Course homepage.

- In emails to instructors, it's important to note the specific course in which you are enrolled. The name of the course is at the top center of all pages.
- Students and instructors communicate in Discussion posts and other learning activities.
- All interactions should follow APUS guidelines, as noted in the [Student Handbook](#), and maintain a professional, courteous tone.
- Students should review writing for spelling and grammar.
- [Tips on Using the Office 365 Email Tool](#)

### **Instructor Communication**

The instructor will post announcements on communications preferences involving email and Instant Messaging and any changes in the class schedule or activities.

- Instructors will periodically post information on the expectations of students and will provide feedback on assignments, Discussion posts, quizzes, and exams.
- Instructors will generally acknowledge student communications within 24 hours and respond within 48 hours, except in unusual circumstances (e.g., illness).



- The APUS standard for grading of all assessments (assignments, Discussions, quizzes, exams) is five days or fewer from the due date.
- Final course grades are submitted by faculty no later than seven days after the end date of the course or the end of the extension period.

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## University Policies

Consult the Student Handbook for processes and policies at APUS. Notable policies:

- Drop/Withdrawal Policy
- Extension Requests
- Academic Probation
- Appeals
- Academic Dishonesty / Plagiarism
- Disability Accommodations
- Student Deadlines
- Video Conference Policy

## Mission

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society

## Minimum Technology Requirements

- Please consult the catalog for the minimum hardware and software required for undergraduate and graduate courses.
- Although students are encouraged to use the Pulse mobile app with any course, please note that not all course work can be completed via a mobile device.

## Disclaimers

- Please note that course content – and, thus, the syllabus – may change between when a student registers for a course and when the course starts.
- Course content may vary from the syllabus' schedule to meet the needs of a particular group.