McKendree University  
RN to BSN Program  
NSG 470 Syllabus

CLINICAL PRACTICUM IN COMMUNITY HEALTH (W)  
(A writing intensive course)

COURSE CREDIT  
Four (4) hours (includes 40 hour mentorship and 80 hours project development, implementation, and evaluation)

PREREQUISITE – NSG 314, NSG 450  
PRE- OR COREQUISITE – NSG 400

AGGREGATE STUDENT OUTCOMES  
1. Demonstrate critical thinking skills by integrating knowledge from various disciplines.  
2. Synthesize knowledge from the art and science of nursing as a basis for nursing practice.  
3. Analyze the effects of social, cultural and environmental components on health status.  
4. Utilize assessment to plan nursing care for individuals, families, groups, and communities.  
5. Demonstrate professional communication skills in interactions.  
6. Apply leadership principles to professional practice.  
7. Incorporate nursing research into evidence-based nursing practice.

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This capstone clinical course is designed to apply principles of community health nursing. Expanding upon current knowledge and experience base, students will participate in a variety of clinical activities in the community. Students will design, implement and evaluate a project focusing on community health. This project will challenge critical thinking skills as students analyze and synthesize data to develop health promotion and disease prevention strategies for population groups.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES  
1. Compare and contrast the function and purposes of various community health agencies and the associated community nursing roles.  
2. Develop a comprehensive written analysis of a selected community health nursing role.  
3. Participate in quality improvement and patient safety initiatives in the selected community agency.  
4. Engage in interprofessional collaboration with members of the health care team in community agencies for the provision of care to individual clients and groups.  
5. Apply the principles of scientific inquiry and research in developing a written plan for a community health project aimed toward meeting the needs of a selected community group.  
6. Exhibit leadership behaviors during the community health practicum experience.

WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE DESCRIPTION  
These courses are to be completed after successful completion of six hours of first year English (students must successfully pass the WPE prior to enrollment in the 2nd writing-intensive course).
The purpose of a writing-intensive requirement is to insure that students continue to practice and develop the writing, reading, and critical thinking skills they learned in the first-year composition courses, and to insure that they learn to use the conventions of discourse and research methodologies of their major discipline.

To meet this requirement, a course should include at least the following elements:

- A minimum of 5,000 words (around twenty typed pages) as assigned writing over the course of the semester.
- A mix of formal and informal writing exercises. Formal writing would include research papers, essays, position papers, and reports that have gone through more than one draft before being presented in the finished form. Informal writing would include study questions, in-class responses, journals, heuristic exercises, and essay examinations.
- A process-oriented approach to the teaching of writing. Simply defined, this means that the writing of a finished product is divided into stages, with oral and written feedback at each stage.
- Additional recommendations may be located at: www.mckendree.edu/writing_center/default.htm

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Class/Blackboard attendance is expected. The instructor reserves the right to require any make-up work necessary to insure that educational objectives are met. Students are responsible for assigned readings.

2. Students are expected to be prepared for class by reviewing reading assignments and other materials pertinent to the topic for discussion. Active participation and contribution to class discussion will demonstrate preparation.

3. Written assignments:
   a. Papers are to be submitted on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted except by special arrangement with the professor. The instructor reserves the right to attach a grade penalty to any late paper.
   b. Numerous errors in APA format, grammar, punctuation or typing may result in the paper being returned to the student for revision. Revision days count as late days for point deduction.
   c. Papers must be referenced using APA format. Inadequate referencing will result in a grade penalty. Overt plagiarism will result in a grade of “F.” Per the university catalogue, it is expected that students observe McKendree University’s policies concerning academic honesty.
   d. Assistance is available in person or online through the Writing Center located on the main campus (618-537-6858 or 800-232-7228, ext. 6858); by email at writingcenter@mckendree.edu.
   e. Students must pass all clinical requirements to receive a passing grade for the course.

4. All Email communication will be conducted via McKendree email accounts. Every student is issued a McKendree email account, which is one of the major means of communication from departments such as the Office of Academic Records, Student Affairs and the Business Office. All students are responsible for checking their McKendree email accounts regularly, and are accountable for information disseminated to their email accounts. Failure to read university communications sent to McKendree email accounts does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of these communications.
ACADEMIC HONESTY
Individuals are expected to demonstrate integrity in their academic endeavors throughout their college careers. Practices such as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, fraud, misrepresentation or falsification of data, theft, destruction of examinations or papers, alteration of records and/or communication of examination questions and other acts of academic dishonesty are not acceptable behavior. Any of these practices will result in failure of the course and may result in dismissal from the Nursing Program.

POLICY ON INSTRUCTIONAL MODIFICATION
Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations or modification to complete assignments and otherwise satisfy course criteria are encouraged to meet with the instructor to identify and plan the specific accommodations. Prior to the implementation of any changes in course policies, students will be required to submit a letter from a healthcare professional documenting the disability and types of accommodations that are needed for success.

TEACHING STRATEGIES
Assigned community clinical activities
Individual conferences
Class discussions

EVALUATION METHODS
Written personal learning objectives/ accountability record/ weekly contact 10%
Written plan for community health project 50%
Implementation of the community health project t 15%
Class presentation about project 10%
Written community nursing role analysis 15%
Mentorship and clinical agency experience** Pass/Fail

**Mentorship and clinical agency experiences must be passed to complete the course requirements.
Signed accountability record (that includes personal objectives, clinical activities, dates, time and site of activities) and the mentor’s signed appraisal of student will serve as evidence of successful completion of clinical.

GRADING SCALE
The Division of Nursing grading scale will be used.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 - 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93 - 94</td>
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<tr>
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<td>D</td>
<td>65 - 68</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>64</td>
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REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: See textbook list.

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus as needed to ensure completion of course objectives.
# Accountability Record for Clinical Experience

**McKendree University – RN to BSN Program**

**McKendree University Student:**

**McKendree University Faculty:**

**Agency:**

**Agency Contact or Mentor:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mentor’s Title:</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time spent at the agency</th>
<th>Description of Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>I have reviewed this record with the student:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Agency Representative</td>
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</tbody>
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**Student-generated measurable learning objectives:**

As required by law, I agree to hold in confidence all information gained during my clinical experiences as a student at McKendree University. I will not, currently or in the future, divulge or in any way communicate information that may be construed as confidential by other nursing or health care professionals. This information includes, but is not limited to, health information about patients and clients of affiliating agencies as well as business function information about specific community agencies.

Student Name (please print): ________________________________

Signature: ________________________________________________

Date: ____________________________________________________