

PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course is designed for registered nurses working in local North Carolina public health departments. It requires the completion of two prerequisites: “Introduction to Public Health in North Carolina” and “E is for Epi” (a five part training series) which are available online free of charge.

Participants **MUST PROVIDE** documentation of completion of these prerequisites in order to receive credit for the course. The “Principles & Practices of Public Health Nursing” course has a 2½ day on-site portion followed by two weeks of self-study and a final exam. *Without documentation of prerequisites, participants will not be allowed to participate in the on-site portion of the course.*

Emphasis in the course is placed on a synthesis of nursing practice and public health. Nursing Services directed to individuals, families and groups is presented in the context of improving the health of the entire community. *Successful completion of this course is a **legal requirement**: all Public Health Nurses who do not have a BSN must successfully complete this course during their first year of employment with a local health department.* BSNs may take the course, but their passing the exam does not have any impact on their employment.

COURSE GOALS:

- To assure minimum competencies in the practice of public health and public health nursing.
- To increase the competencies of beginning public health nurses.
- To comply with the administrative rule requiring minimum education in public health nursing to practice as a public health nurse in North Carolina.
- To comply with prerequisites to enhanced roles for public health nurses.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

At the completion of this course, local public health nurses will be able to:

- Discuss the role of public health and its core functions;
- Identify essential data to assess health care needs of populations;
- Discuss the forces shaping the current health care system;
- Apply principles of public health practice to care provided in local health departments in NC;
- Describe the community or population as a client;
- Use case studies to determine the effectiveness of health services provided;
- Discuss the application of the nursing process to public health nursing care for individuals, families and populations;
- Identify trends and issues influencing public health and public health nursing practice in North Carolina;
- Describe skills needed to manage care of clients in the community;
- Discuss the role of public health and public health nurses in disasters.

COURSE PLACEMENT AND PARTICIPANTS:

This course is designed for Registered Nurses hired to positions in local health departments during their first year of employment and it is a legal requirement for those working in this setting who do not have a BSN. Ideal timing is after the first three months of employment, but within the first year of practice.

Other public health Registered Nurses who have not had course preparation in public health or have limited educational preparation in public health and those public health nurses who have completed their BSN but feel they need additional public health preparation may also take the course. RNs who have a BSN are not required to complete the final exam unless stipulated by their health department.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE:

No influential financial relationships have been disclosed by planners or presenters which would influence the planning of this activity. No commercial support has influenced the planning of the educational objectives and content of this event. Any commercial support will be used for events that are not CE related. There is no endorsement of any product by NCNA, ANCC, or other credentialing bodies associated with this session. No session relates to products governed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In the event that a session does relate to products governed by the FDA, appropriate and off-label use will be shared.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

You can find the recommended readings for each module on both the Intro webpage and in the syllabus. We have identified the readings from Edition Nine of Stanhope, Marcia and Lancaster, Jeanette; *Public Health Nursing: Population-Centered Health Care in the Community*. If the 9th edition is not available at your health department, or if you who like to purchase a personal copy, you can do so at most larger bookstores or by contacting the UNC CH Health Affairs Bookstore: phone 919-966-2208.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION:

A closed book, non-assisted final exam will be made available to students through Sakai, an online learning management system. Each student will be given access and guided instruction on Sakai during the 2 ½ day in-person course. Students may choose to take the final exam at their convenience during the two weeks following the course, after 2 weeks post seminar the exam will no longer be available. Students will have a maximum of two hours to complete the exam and are required to attest to the University honor code stating that no notes, books, aids or other materials were used during the exam period.

Students will be notified of their exam grade immediately after submission. Once a student passes the exam, they can use the code they received from completing their course evaluation to access their certificate of completion. This certificate should be printed, given to their supervisor, and added to their permanent file. The student should also place their original certificate of completion in a safe place in the event it should be needed to validate completion of this course.

An email will be sent to those who do not successfully complete their exam with a score of 80% indicating their options to pursue a passing exam grade as indicated below.

1. Successful completion is based on a passing grade (80% or better) on the written exam.
2. If the student has a failing grade (less than 80%) on the written examination, the student has the following option(s):
 - Take a make-up examination and obtain a passing grade within one week of the exam deadline. Note: The student is strongly encouraged to meet with the course coordinator to review performance on the previous course examination prior to taking the make-up examination.
 - If the student does *not* achieve 80% or better on the *make-up* exam, the student has the option to:
 - Retake this course and pass the written examination, or
 - Take a course in public health nursing theory in a BSN program, and obtain a passing grade on a written examination for that course.
 - Acquire special permission from the Public Health Nursing and Professional Development Unit and the supervisor/director of nursing at the local agency.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance at each class session is REQUIRED of all participants. In the event of an unavoidable absence, students will need to notify the course coordinator.

GUIDE TO MODULES:

Each module has a written overview/guide to help you study the material. This overview/guide contains the following features:

- *Overview:* the overall concepts presented in the module is, generally what you'll be doing in the module, and why the material is important.
- *Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills:* information studied in previous courses that you will be applying in this course to the public health setting.
- *Objectives:* guidelines to focus your reading and study.
- *Key Terms:* new definitions or concepts introduced in the reading or class.
- *Reading Assignment:* text and other required readings.
- *Supplemental Reading:* additional sources for further optional study in specialized areas.