

ODESSA COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM
SYLLABUS RNSG 1108
Spring 2013

COURSE TITLE: DOSAGE CALCULATIONS FOR NURSING

CREDIT: 1 HOUR

PLACEMENT: Prerequisite for program admission. Four sections offered every Spring and Fall semester, three offered Summer 1 and Summer 2. Twenty-eight students enrolled per section.

PRE-REQUISITES: NONE

CO-REQUISITES: NONE

LICENSING/CERTIFICATION AGENCY: TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING (BON)

FACULTY: Mary Alice Snow MSN, RN
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Office Hours: Wednesday, 11:00AM – 2:00PM
Thursday, 8:00 – 9:00AM & 4:00 – 5:00PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course emphasizes critical thinking to effectively, accurately and safely calculate dosages of medications. It includes reading, interpreting, and solving dosage calculation problems. This course involves measurements within the apothecary, avoirdupois and metric systems. Learners will review basic math skills and learn systems of measurement. They will also learn Dimensional Analysis for calculating dosages of oral; powdered and parenteral; pediatric and adult weight-based; and, intravenous medications. Course materials are available through Blackboard, the printed text, the text disc, and tutoring sessions. This course is appropriate for preparing LVN and RN learners. (ICOs 1, 3)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The learner will:

1. Demonstrate competency in basic arithmetic function.
2. Solve problems using a critical thinking approach.
3. Demonstrate the ability to convert between the metric, apothecary, and avoirdupois systems.
4. Use Dimensional Analysis to calculate accurate dosages.
5. Demonstrate the ability to calculate dosages based on body weight of pediatric and adult patients.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Course objectives utilize the framework of Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs. Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to (PO=Corresponding Program Outcome):

As a Provider of Patient-Centered Care:

1. Demonstrate competency in basic arithmetic functions.
2. Solve problems using a critical thinking approach (PO 3, 7).
3. Accurately use and convert between Metric, Apothecary, and Avoirdupois (household) systems; and, be able to convert within each system (PO 3).
4. Read dosage and medication information using accepted terminology and abbreviations.
5. Interpret medication orders.
6. Calculate dosages using basic systems of measurement.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of safe accurate medication calculation using Dimensional Analysis.
8. Utilize the information on medication labels to calculate prescribed dosages.
9. Calculate pediatric and adult medication dosages based on weight.
10. Calculate intravenous solution flow rates for elective and manual infusion systems.

TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS: The following methods may be incorporated into RNSG 1108:

1. Online instructional methodology
2. Examinations
3. Tutoring

This course has been identified by Career, Technical, and Workforce Education as one in which teaching and learning strategies adopted by AVID will be implemented. As a student, you will be expected to develop an understanding of the strategies, to model the strategies, to maintain fidelity of implementation, and to examine how these strategies may impact your effectiveness as a professional in your chosen area of occupation, either through coursework or practicum experience as outlined by the course instructor.

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

Quizzes	25%
Participation	5%
Midterm	35%
Final exam	<u>35%</u>
TOTAL	100%

GRADING SCALE:	A = 90-100
	B = 80-89
	C = 75-79
	D = 60-74.99
	F = 59 & Below

A final grade of C or higher must be attained in order to pass RNSG 1108. No grades will be rounded up to 75 to pass (Example: 74.99 = grade of D)

The Odessa College Student Success Coaches will help you stay focused and on track to complete your educational goals. If an instructor sees that you might need additional help or success coaching, he or she may submit a Retention Alert or a Starfish Alert. A Student Success Coach will contact you to work toward a solution.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Curren, A. M. (2010). *Dimensional analysis for meds*. (4th ed.). New York: Delmar.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Dimensional Analysis for Meds (Fourth Edition) textbook
Student Practice Software disc located in the back of the book
Internet/Blackboard

COURSE POLICIES:

1. Dates and times for participation assignment(s)/quizzes/exams will be announced on Blackboard. All testing is “online” except for the final exam which must be handwritten on campus. The quizzes and midterm exam are provided under the designated “Course Section” on Blackboard. The midterm exam and final exam each count 35% of the final grade. Failure to turn in a quiz or midterm at the proper time will result in a 10% grade reduction for each day the assignment is late.

2. Quizzes are provided in order to encourage practice and precision. They are weighted 25% of the course grade. Quizzes 1-5 are due per assigned dates.

3. You must show all work for calculation problems in order to get full credit for each quiz. Work must be handwritten.

4. **You are allowed to hand deliver, e mail (as an attachment), fax, or mail your quizzes/handwritten work and midterm.** Quizzes faxed will be to the attention of Ms. Snow and faxed to the OC Associate Degree Nursing Department @ (432) 335-6873.

5. You may reach the instructor by telephone (432) 288-0650 or at msnow@odessa.edu to discuss specific problems, assignments or other issues. The instructor will be available for tutoring on campus at times to be announced.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: No campus attendance is required except for the final exam. Each student will be required to show a picture ID prior to taking the final exam.

ABSENCE FROM EXAMS: It is your responsibility to arrange to complete all quizzes and the midterm; and, to complete the course on time.

COURSE CALENDAR: This is a “paced” online course. In other words, students will not be allowed to complete this course prior to the end of the semester. Deadlines and due dates are available on Blackboard.

****Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please contact Becky Rivera-Weiss in the Office of Disability Services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.**

EXPECTATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT – ONLINE LEARNING:

To help make the web-based learning experience fulfilling and rewarding, the following Expectations for Engagement provide the parameters for reasonable engagement between students and instructors for the online learning environment. Students and instructors are welcome to exceed these requirements.

Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Instructors

1. As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will:
 - provide my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
 - respond to all messages within 24 hours if received Monday through Thursday and within 48 hours if received Friday through Sunday; and,
 - notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of emergencies during the time I'm unavailable.
2. As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will:
 - provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus, and
 - communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.
3. As an instructor, I understand that I need to provide regular, timely feedback to students about their performance in the course. To keep students informed about their progress, I will:
 - post grades for discussion postings within one week of the discussion thread closing.
 - provide grades for major assignments within 2 weeks of the due date or at least 3 days before the next major assignment is due, whichever comes first.

Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Students

1. As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will:
 - line up alternative computer and internet access in case my primary computer crashes or my internet services are unavailable;
 - recognize that the college provides free Wi-Fi and computer labs during regular campus hours to help me with accessing my course; and,
 - understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my equipment or service is unreliable.

2. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to:

- getting “kicked off” of the system during tests or quizzes;
- having trouble submitting assignments; and
- dealing with a traumatic personal event.

3. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will:

- seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;
- ask questions if I don’t understand; and,
- access my course several times during the week to keep up with assignments and announcements.