

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**NURS-104**  
**Advanced Concepts in Practical Nursing**  
6 semester hours (3 theory/3 clinical)

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description**

This course will prepare the practical nurse student to provide direct and indirect nursing care for individuals of all ages experiencing more complex health care problems resulting from the major responses of stress: obstruction, immobility, infection, bleeding, and alteration in perception. The student will explore the role of the practical nurse in health care and utilize the phases of the nursing process to provide safe nursing care to a small group of patients. Experience in managing the care provided by auxiliary nursing personnel will be integrated into clinical assignments. Prerequisites: PSYC-101, ENGL-101 and NURS-102.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Utilize knowledge of pathophysiology to prevent and minimize complex health care needs.
2. Collaborate with members of the health care team and communicate with patients and family members to manage and promote continuity of care in acute, community, and long-term care settings.
3. Identify and describe role differentiation among levels of nursing practice, agency personnel, and family members.
4. Utilize the concepts associated with the five areas of patient needs and aspects of nursing care to promote holistic care.
5. Demonstrate nursing practice which reflects caring, integrity, accountability, and principles of safe practice.
6. Individualize application of the nursing process utilizing critical thinking to facilitate optimum care and patient adaptation.
7. Implement nursing care with attention to legal standards and ethical principles.
8. Utilize therapeutic communication to interpret responses to stress for members of a multicultural society.

## **Major Topics**

1. Health Care and the Nurse Leader/Manager
  - a. History of Nursing/Practical Nursing
  - b. Health Care Environment
  - c. Role of the Nurse in Health Care Organizations
  - d. Role of the Practical Nurse in Leadership and Management
2. Emergency Nursing
  - a. Priorities and Principles of Emergency Management
  - b. Psychological Management of Patients and Families in Crisis
  - c. Trauma
  - d. Wounds
  - e. Poisoning
  - f. Shock
3. Nursing Care of Patients with Complex Responses to Stress
  - a. Care of the Client in Traction
  - b. Care of the Client with a Tracheostomy
  - c. Care of the Ventilator-Dependent Client
  - d. Care of the Client with a Spinal Cord Injury
4. Rehabilitation and Nursing
  - a. Philosophy of Rehabilitation
  - b. Roles and Responsibilities of Rehabilitation Team
  - c. Care of Client with Stroke
  - d. Care of Client with Musculoskeletal and Nervous System Injuries
  - e. Care of Client with Sickle Cell Anemia
  - f. Care of Client with Cleft Palate
5. Oncological Nursing
  - a. Pathophysiology of the Malignant Process
  - b. Detection and Prevention of Cancer
  - c. Management of Cancer
  - d. Nursing Care of the Patient with Cancer
6. Role of the Practical Nurse in Home Care
  - a. Role Functions of the Practical Nursing Graduate
  - b. Home Care and Community Settings
  - c. Acute, Sub-acute, and Long Term Settings

## **Course Requirements**

**Grading/Exams:** Final grades will be calculated on the basis of a clinical paper, and two unit examinations and a comprehensive final exam.

**Clinical:** This seven-week course requires two clinical evenings per week from 3:00 PM to 11:30 PM, plus two weekend days. Satisfactory clinical performance is necessary to successfully complete NURS-104.

**Writing:** Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include at least 1000 words of formal writing.

## **Other Course Information**

This course is a Practical Nurse Program core course, and may be an elective in the Associate in Arts Degree in Nursing Program.