

Course Outline (Higher Education)

School:	School of Nursing and Healthcare Professions
Course Title:	ELECTIVE 1: PHARMACOLOGY FOR NURSES
Course ID:	NURBN2010
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	Nil
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	Nil
ASCED:	060301

Description of the Course :

This Course provides students, from the main Program cohort in the BN, with a more in-depth study of the field of Therapeutics, which plays a significant role in the prevention and management of disease. Nurses and midwives must have a comprehensive knowledge of the actions and effects of medicines being taken by patients in their care to provide safe, competent and effective medication administration. Understanding drugs and the role of therapeutics requires a strong foundation of pharmacologic principles to help establish the knowledge-base to underpin safe practice. This Course examines fundamental knowledge and skills to promote the therapeutic application of drugs in the clinical setting and to enhance the ability of the nurse to provide patient care and education.

Grade Scheme: Graded (HD, D, C, etc.)

Supplementary Assessment: Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the course but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above and submitted all major assessment tasks..

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	✓	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	■	■	■	■

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course the students are expected to be able to:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Identify and explain various terminologies, characteristics and mechanisms of action of significant drug groups;

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- K2.** Identify and explain the indicators of adverse drug reactions;
- K3.** Identify and describe therapeutic responses to drugs and related life span issues;

Skills:

- S1.** Analyse and identify appropriate administration considerations for significant drug groups;
- S2.** Analyse and explain factors which determine the potency of drug responses;
- S3.** Apply nursing assessment principles to drug administration to promote quality patient care;
- S4.** Explore the use of complementary and alternative therapies in the health care setting and describe the implications for nursing;

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Explore the impact of polypharmacy and develop patient-specific nursing plans for patient care;
- A2.** Investigate factors and processes which may contribute to medication errors in professional practice;
- A3.** Develop a clinical pharmacology care plan; and
- A4.** Apply the knowledge and skills of therapeutic pharmacological intervention in a clinical based scenario(s).

Course Content:

The NMBA Registered Nurse Standards for Practice (2016): NMBA Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses (2013) and NMBA Code of Ethics for Nurses (2013) have substantially informed the syllabus/content of this course.

Topics may include:

- Pharmacodynamics
 - Practice applications of pharmacodynamics
 - Pharmacokinetics
 - Practice applications of pharmacokinetics
 - Polypharmacy and socio-cultural aspects
 - Medication and WHO research
 - Drug Groupings
 - Drug terminology
 - Lifespan issues and adverse drug reactions
 - Application of ethics and critical thinking to pharmacology scenarios
 - Allergy and ADR
 - Cultural health issues relating to pharmaceuticals
 - Pharmacological assessment & clinical decision making
 - Assessment protocols/template applications
 - Drug errors and education
 - Medication Charting and Errors
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- Complementary, alternative and Over the Counter (OTC) medications and therapies.

Values and Graduate Attributes:

Values:

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- V1.** Appreciate the depth of knowledge required by Registered Nurses to safely administer a range of medications.
- V2.** Understand the impact of lifespan and health status of individuals in terms of reactions to medications.

Graduate Attributes:

FedUni graduate attributes statement. To have graduates with knowledge, skills and competence that enable them to stand out as critical and enquiring learners who are capable, flexible and work ready, and responsible, ethical and engaged citizens. These have been applied to nursing context below:

Nursing Graduate Attributes:

The Bachelor of Nursing is a graduate capabilities outcomes-based curriculum. This course develops and/or assesses the following Federation University Australia and Registered Nursing Graduate Capabilities and the NMBA Registered Nurse Standards for Practice (2016).

Federation University Graduate Attributes	Registered Nurse Graduate Capabilities	Low Focus	Medium Focus	High Focus	Assessed
Responsible, ethical, engaged Social/cultural perspectives Local/national/international communities	1. Professional and ethical decision maker		X		
	2. Politically astute, situational leader and citizen		X		X
	3. Socially and culturally aware agent for change				
Critical, creative and enquiring Problem solver Ongoing learning	4. Critical, reflective thinker adept in clinical reasoning		X		X
	5. Creative problem solver		X		
	6. Life-long researcher			X	
Capable, flexible and work ready Communication skills Independent & collaborative worker	7. Skilled therapeutic Communicator				
	8. Capable Inter-Disciplinary Healthcare Team Member				
	9. Competent, caring, safe and professional practitioner			X	X

Learning Task and Assessment:

Planned Student Learning Experience

A 15 credit point course will involve a minimum of 150 hours of learning. For every one hour of teacher directed learning there will be a minimum of two hours of student/learner directed learning. The Teacher-directed hours of student learning in this course will be experienced primarily through teaching innovations like interactive technology enhanced learning, class discussions, audio-visual presentations, flexible blended and on-line learning, low and high fidelity simulations, exploration of case studies and inquiry-based learning. Active participation is encouraged during class sessions. Attendance at all clinical placement and laboratory sessions is compulsory.

Learner-directed hours will include focused learning activities, simulated laboratory learning, practice and reflection on practice, and role modelling. Students are expected to access electronic research databases and use computers to facilitate learning.

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Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, S3, S4 A1, A2, A3, A4	Development and presentation of a clinical drug education resource.	Visual / Oral Presentation	50-70%
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, S3, S4 A1, A2, A3, A4	Application of knowledge and skills	Online Tests	30-50%

Adopted Reference Style:

APA