



## NSG521 Course Syllabus

Nursing Fundamental Concepts (Herzing University)



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— UNIVERSITY —

## Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Fundamental Concepts & Health Assessment

**Course Code:** NSG 521

**Credit hours:** 5.0

Lecture and Discussion (15 contact hours per credit)      75 Contact Hours

### **Course Description:**

This course focuses on the concept of health assessment as the foundational step of the nursing process. Knowledge and skills necessary for the performance of comprehensive and focused health assessments will be presented. Students will learn and develop basic competencies necessary to facilitate the optimal well-being of the patient within the healthcare setting in a safe, legal, and ethical manner. Focus is placed on the nursing process, health promotion, disease prevention, professional communication, and interdisciplinary collaboration within the context of meeting basic patient needs in a healthcare environment.

**Program:** DEMSN Nursing

### **Program Outcomes:**

Upon completion of their program, the student should be able to:

1. Prioritize patient-centered care using clinical judgment and the nursing process. (Knowledge for Nursing Practice, Person-Centered Care)
2. Collaborate with patients, families and team members to provide safe and culturally competent care. (Population Health, Quality and Safety)
3. Integrate evidence-based practice within diverse clinical settings to deliver optimal care. (Scholarship, Systems-Based Practice)
4. Minimize risk of harm to patients and providers through both systems effectiveness and individual performance. (Quality and Safety)
5. Use informational technology to communicate, mitigate error, support decision making, and manage patient care. (Informatics and Healthcare Technologies)
6. Evaluate quality improvement processes to enhance patient outcomes. (Quality and Safety)

7. Integrate professionalism and advanced leadership skills within the interdisciplinary healthcare environment. (Interprofessional Partnerships, Professionalism, Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development)
8. Analyze national and global policies, legislative concepts, and economics to address population outcomes. (Professionalism)

### **Course Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Apply the nursing process and the role of the nurse as it applies to health assessment and health promotion.
2. Apply relevant anatomy and physiology to the health assessment process.
3. Differentiate normal assessment findings, variations from normal, and cultural and lifespan differences.
4. Develop patient and interprofessional communication skills.
5. Define holistic nursing care to patients based on assessment of their specific healthcare needs.

### **Competencies:**

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive physical examination.
2. Exhibit history-taking and interviewing skills necessary for comprehensive data collection.
3. Safely perform patient assessments.
4. Demonstrate accurate documentation of health assessment findings.
5. Perform dosage calculations for administration of oral and parenteral medications accurately.

**\*NOTE: The comprehensive physical examination check-off during the NSG522 skills intensive must be passed in order to pass the course (Comprehensive Health Assessment).**

## Topics & Learning Activities

Unit	Topics & Activities	Points Possible
<b>Unit 1</b> <b>Professional Nursing: Introduction to the Nursing Profession, The Role of the Nurse, Therapeutic Communication, Appropriate Use of Technology, and Legal and Ethical Concerns</b>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Professional Nursing</li> <li>• The Role of the Nurse in Health</li> <li>• Assessment and Health Promotion</li> <li>• The Role of the Nurse in Teaching and Counseling</li> <li>• The Role of the Nurse in Communication</li> <li>• Ethical and Legal Dimensions of Nursing Care</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading:</b> Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board</li> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions (KCQ)</li> <li>• Shadow Health DCE Orientation</li> </ul>	<b>20</b> <b>50</b> <b>10</b>
<b>Unit 2</b> <b>The Nursing Process and Components of the Health Assessment</b>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Nursing Process</li> <li>• Assessment</li> <li>• Subjective Data Collection: Interviewing and the Health History</li> <li>• The Objective Assessment</li> <li>• Nursing Diagnosis</li> <li>• Planning</li> <li>• Implementation</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> <li>• Documentation</li> <li>• Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) &amp; Nursing Research</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading:</b> Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions (KCQ)</li> <li>• Shadow Health Conversation Concept Lab</li> <li>• Shadow Health History</li> <li>• Health History Interview and Summary</li> </ul>	<b>50</b> <b>10</b> <b>50</b> <b>100</b>

	<p><b>Student Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviewing &amp; Health History Watch &amp; Learn Videos: Chapter 2: Health History Taking; Chapter 4</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Unit 3</b>  <b>Patient Safety, including Hygiene, Infection Control, and Asepsis and Medication Administration/Introduction to Medication Administration and Complementary Therapies</b></p>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Patient Safety Goals</li> <li>• Quality Improvement</li> <li>• Infection Control and Asepsis</li> <li>• Hygiene Practices</li> <li>• Complementary and Alternative Therapies</li> <li>• Pharmacology Concepts</li> <li>• The Nursing Process for Administration of</li> <li>• Oral, Topical, Otic, Ophthalmic, Nasal, and Suppository Medications</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading:</b>  Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions (KCQ)</li> </ul>	<p><b>50</b></p>
<p><b>Unit 4</b>  <b>General Assessments and Health Equity</b></p>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutritional Assessment</li> <li>• The Nursing Process for Nutrition</li> <li>• Mental Health, Substance Abuse, &amp; Violence Screening</li> <li>• Cultural and Spiritual Considerations in Nursing Care</li> <li>• Cultural, Social, and Spiritual Assessments</li> <li>• Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading:</b>  Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions (KCQ)</li> </ul>	<p><b>50</b></p>
<p><b>Unit 5</b>  <b>General Survey, Vital Signs, and Pain Assessment and Assessment of the Skin, Hair and Nails and Nursing Support of Tissue Integrity</b></p>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Survey and Pain Assessment</li> <li>• Nursing Support of Pain Management</li> <li>• Anthropometric Measurements &amp; Body Temperature</li> <li>• Measurement of Heart Rate, Pulse, and Blood Pressure</li> <li>• Pulse Oximetry and Measurement of Respiratory</li> </ul>	

	<p>Rate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure and Function of the Skin, Hair, and Nails</li> <li>• Subjective Assessment of the Skin, Hair, and Nails</li> <li>• Objective Assessment of the Skin, Hair, and Nails</li> <li>• Tissue Integrity and Wounds</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading:</b> Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions (KCQ)</li> <li>• Shadow Health Skin, Hair, and Nails DCE</li> </ul> <p><b>Student Resources:</b> Jensen Watch &amp; Learn Videos: Chapter 5-Student Resources: Vital Signs Jensen Watch &amp; Learn Videos: Chapter 11-Assessment of the Skin, Hair &amp; Nails</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam 1</li> </ul>	<p>50 10</p> <p>100</p>
<p><b>Unit 6</b> <b>Assessment of the Head and Neck</b></p>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure and Function of the Head and Neck</li> <li>• Subjective Assessment of the Head and Neck</li> <li>• Objective Assessment of the Head and Neck</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading:</b> Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions (KCQ)</li> <li>• Shadow Health HEENT DCE</li> </ul> <p><b>Student Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jensen Watch &amp; Learn Videos: Chapters 12- 15</li> </ul>	<p>50 10</p>
<p><b>Unit 7</b> <b>Assessment of the Thorax, Lungs, Breasts, and Axillae and Nursing Support of Oxygenation</b></p>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure and Function of the Thorax, Lungs, Breasts, and Axillae</li> <li>• Subjective Assessment of the Thorax, Lungs, Breasts, and Axillae</li> <li>• Objective Assessment of the Thorax, Lungs, Breasts, and Axillae</li> </ul>	



<p align="center"><b>Unit 9</b>  <b>Assessment of the Gastrointestinal and Genitourinary Systems and Nursing Support of Urinary and Bowel Elimination</b></p>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure and Function of the Gastrointestinal and Genitourinary Systems</li> <li>• Subjective Assessment of the Abdomen, Genitalia, and Rectum Objective Assessment of the Abdomen, Genitalia, and Rectum</li> <li>• Nursing Support of Urinary Elimination</li> <li>• Nursing Support of Bowel Elimination</li> <li>• Gender and Sexuality Considerations in Nursing Care</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading:</b>  Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions (KCQ) 50</li> <li>• Shadow Health Abdominal Concept Lab 100</li> <li>• Shadow Health Abdominal DCE 50</li> <li>• Shadow Health Focused Exam-Abdominal Pain 100</li> <li>• Dosage Calculation: Unit 2: Intermediate Dosage Calculation: Intravenous Solutions and Equipment 50</li> </ul> <p><b>Student Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jensen Watch &amp; Learn Videos: Chapter 20</li> </ul>	
<p align="center"><b>Unit 10</b>  <b>Assessment of the Musculoskeletal System and Nursing Support of Activity and Mobility</b></p>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure and Function of the Musculoskeletal System</li> <li>• Subjective Assessment of the Musculoskeletal System</li> <li>• Objective Assessment of the Musculoskeletal System</li> <li>• Introduction to Activity, Mobility, and Exercise</li> <li>• The Nursing Process for Activity</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading:</b>  Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions (KCQ) 50</li> <li>• Shadow Health Musculoskeletal DCE 10</li> <li>• Dosage Calculation: Unit 2: Intermediate Dosage Calculation: Calculation of IV Flow Rate 50</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>Student Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jensen Watch &amp; Learn Videos: Chapter 21</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam 3</li> <li>• Dosage Calc Exam 02 Prep: Quiz #1</li> </ul>	<p><b>100 P/F</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Unit 11 Assessment of the Neurologic System and Nursing Support of Coping, Sleep, and Pain Management</b></p>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure and Function of the Neurologic System</li> <li>• Subjective Assessment of the Neurologic System</li> <li>• Objective Assessment of the Neurologic System</li> <li>• Nursing Support of Rest and Sleep</li> <li>• Nursing Support to Reduce Stress and Anxiety</li> <li>• Self-Concept and Well-Being</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading:</b> Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions (KCQ)</li> <li>• Shadow Health Neurological DCE</li> <li>• Dosage Calculation: Unit 2: Intermediate Dosage Calculation: Determining and Calculating the Unknown</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dosage Calc Exam 02 Prep: Quiz #2</li> </ul> <p><b>Student Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jensen Watch &amp; Learn Videos: Chapter 22</li> </ul>	<p><b>50 50 50  P/F</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Unit 12 Assessment of the Hospitalized Client and Special Populations and Nursing Support of the Aging Adult and Care During Loss and Grief</b></p>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subjective Assessment of the Hospitalized Client</li> <li>• Objective Assessment of the Hospitalized Client</li> <li>• The Nursing Process for Administration of Parenteral Medications</li> <li>• Communication, Collaboration, and Interdisciplinary Teams</li> <li>• Assessment During Pregnancy</li> <li>• Assessment During Infancy, Childhood, and Adolescence</li> <li>• Nursing Support of the Aging Adult</li> <li>• Nursing Support During Loss and Grief</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>Reading:</b> Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions (KCQ) 50</li> <li>• Shadow Health Discharge DCE 50</li> <li>• Dosage Calculation: Unit 2: Intermediate Dosage Calculation: Calculation of IV Flow Rate, Large Volume Continuous 50</li> <li>• Dosage Calculation: Unit 02, Unit 05: Intermediate Dosage Calculation: Calculation of IV Flow Rate, Small Volume Intermittent 50</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dosage Calc Exam 02 Prep: Quiz #3 P/F</li> </ul> <p><b>Student Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jensen Watch &amp; Learn Videos: Chapters 25- 27</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Unit 13 Comprehensive Health Assessment and Intensive</b></p>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive Health Assessment</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading:</b> Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions (KCQ) 50</li> <li>• Shadow Health Comprehensive Assessment 100</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam 4 100</li> <li>• Comprehensive Health Assessment Skill Validation P/F</li> <li>• Dosage Calculation Exam 2 Practice Exam P/F</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Unit 14 Putting It All Together in the Clinical Setting/Reflection Activities</b></p>	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-Reflection</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading:</b> Selected readings as provided in adaptive platform</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Check Questions 50</li> <li>• Comprehensive Knowledge Check Remediation 100</li> </ul>	

	<b>Assessments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dosage Calculation Exam 02</li> </ul>	<b>P/F</b>
<b>Unit 15 Final Exam</b>	<b>Topics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflection</li> <li>Final Exam</li> </ul> <b>Assessments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HESI Final Comprehensive Exam</li> <li>Dosage Calculation Exam 02 Retake, if needed</li> </ul>	<b>100 P/F</b>

Exam grades that appear in the adaptive (Realizeit) platform do not reflect the final grade and should be disregarded. The final grade will become visible in the Canvas platform after the test item analysis has been completed.

\*Pass rates may vary by program requirement- Refer to the University Catalog

### Undergraduate Grade Scale

<b>A</b>	90.00%-100.00%
<b>B</b>	80.00%-89.99%
<b>C</b>	76.00%-79.99%
<b>F</b>	0.00-75.99%

Grade Summary	Weight	Method of Scoring
Discussions	5%	Rubric
Knowledge Check Questions	10%	Points
Shadow Health Concept Labs, Focused Exams, Digital Clinical Experiences, Dosage Calculation units	10%	Points
Exams (4)	40%	Points
Final Exam	20%	Points
Health History Paper	10%	Rubric
Knowledge Check Remediation	5%	Points
Comprehensive Health Assessment Check-off During Skills Intensive		P/F
Dosage Calculation Quizzes and Exams		P/F
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**\*\* Dosage Calculation Exam 02:** Students will be given two opportunities to pass the Dosage Calculation Exam 02 with a grade of 80% or better. Students who fail to achieve 80% on their first attempt of the dosage exam will be required to engage in remediation. Students unable to pass the dosage exam with 80% on the second attempt will not be permitted to progress to NSG 523 Medical-Surgical Nursing I.

Students must complete all dosage calculation units, quizzes, and practice exams within the course, and complete remediation as needed using the dosage calculation resources posted in the course, the Calculate with Confidence textbook and online practice exercises, and by scheduling time with the Herzing University tutoring center as needed.

### **Use of Remote Proctoring for Exams**

Herzing University is committed to protecting each student's privacy while also maintaining the integrity of assessments used to determine student achievement of learning objectives. As part of its efforts to do so, Herzing uses Proctorio, a proctoring software that allows for automated or live proctoring of exams, to maintain the integrity of the exams administered by the University.

The automated proctoring solution monitors test takers via a webcam, microphone, browser, and device to uphold the integrity of the assessment. This process includes monitoring test taker behavior, including facial and gaze detection tracked, dropped internet connections, and other activities that may indicate irregular testing activities. At the end of the exam session, an institution-approved representative will review a summary report of flagged activities; raw data will additionally be available. The institution-approved representative determines if any further action is warranted based on University policy. Herzing will retain this information for six months unless needed to resolve a specific pending grade dispute.

Any student accessing an exam without the use of Proctorio will receive a zero on the exam.

### **THIRD-PARTY TESTING**

Assessment and remediation are critical components of nursing education. Students in the nursing program may be required to take third-party, standardized exams in an electronic format throughout the curriculum. These standardized tests are valid and reliable predictors of success on the NCLEX examination and provide valuable feedback concerning student strengths and weaknesses. Student learning outcome data identifies content areas that require remediation, allowing faculty to personalize student support and intervention. Courses that utilize third-party exams will incorporate the points earned on the test as a percentage of the final grade earned for the course as specified in the course syllabus.

NSG521 will utilize a HESI custom final exam. Student scores on this exam will be determined as follows:

HESI Score	Percentage
>1050	95
1001-1050	90
950-1000	85
900-949	82
875-899	80
850-874	78
800-849	75
750-799	71
700-749	67
≤ 699	59

## POLICIES

\*University policies, such as attendance philosophy, notification of absences, extenuating circumstances, accommodation requests, academic dishonesty, late policy, grading and grading symbols, and student conduct are included in the University catalog. Students should reference the catalog for the complete listing of policies.

*\*Note: In some cases, program and/or course specific information may be appended to the syllabus as an addendum. In these instances, students must consider the syllabus to be inclusive of any appended information, and as such, students must adhere to all course requirements as described in the document in its entirety.*

To pass this course, students must achieve a minimum exam average of 76%. This exam average is determined by the average scores of all exams in the course. This does not apply to Dosage Calculation exams, PassPoint exams, ShadowHealth exams, or HESI Exit Exams.

After achieving the 76% exam average, the exam scores are applied to the weighted grading scale to calculate the final course grade. The final course grade is inclusive of all course requirements in the weighted grading scale to determine the final course grade. A final course grade of 76% or higher is required to pass this course.

*Final grades will be posted after the exam average has been calculated and applied at the end of the term.*