Your competence will be assessed as you complete the objective assessment for Caring Arts and Science Across the Life Span, in conjunction with the skills assessment in the learning lab, and the clinical intensive. The course covers 9 competencies and represents 4 competency units.

Introduction

Overview
What does it mean to become a nurse? What does it mean to enter a profession that is highly respected and offers so many diverse opportunities? All nurses, no matter what their specialty, base their practice on the fundamentals of nursing. Fundamentals speak to the core of all nursing care by assessing the needs of patients with compassion and respect; advocating patients and their families; providing education and comfort; and integrating patient needs into a plan of care that embraces individuality, diversity, and belief.

Competencies
This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 9 competencies:

- **Competency 726.2.1: Principles of Homeostasis**
  The graduate integrates principles of homeostasis in assessing and responding to needs and changes in the adult patient.

- **Competency 726.2.2: History & Physical Assessment of the Adult Patient**
  The graduate obtains a health history and performs a general head to toe physical assessment on the adult patient.

- **Competency 726.2.3: Principles of Safe Medication Administration**
  The graduate administers medications to the adult patient using safe, patient-centered practices incorporating principles of medication error prevention.

- **Competency 726.2.4: Principles of Oxygenation**
  The graduate integrates principles of oxygenation in assessing and responding to needs and changes in patients.

- **Competency 726.2.5: Principles of Nutrition, Metabolism, & Elimination**
  The graduate integrates principles of nutrition, metabolism and elimination in assessing and responding to needs and changes in the patient.

- **Competency 726.2.6: Principles of Skin Integrity, Activity, & Mobility**
  The graduate integrates principles of skin integrity, activity, and mobility in assessing and responding to needs and changes in the patient.

- **Competency 726.2.7: Principles of Cognition, Self-Concept, Spirituality, & Sexuality**
  The graduate integrates principles of cognition, self-concept, spirituality, and sexuality in assessing and responding to needs and changes in adult patients.

- **Competency 726.2.8: Principles of Comfort**
  The graduate integrates principles of comfort in assessing and responding to physical and emotional needs and changes in adult patients.

- **Competency 726.2.9: Principles of Patient Education**
  The graduate integrates principles of patient education in assessing and responding to
learning needs of patients and families.

**Nursing Dispositions Statement**
Please review the [Statement of Nursing Dispositions](#).

**Course Instructor Assistance**
As you prepare to demonstrate competency in this subject, remember that course instructors stand ready to help you reach your educational goals. As subject matter experts, instructors enjoy and take pride in helping students become reflective learners, problem solvers, and critical thinkers. Course instructors are excited to hear from you and eager to work with you.

Successful students report that working with a course instructor is the key to their success. Course instructors are able to share tips on approaches, tools, and skills that can help you apply the content you're studying. They also provide guidance in assessment preparation strategies and troubleshoot areas of deficiency. Even if things don’t work out on your first try, course instructors act as a support system to guide you through the revision process. You should expect to work with course instructors for the duration of your coursework, and you are encouraged to contact them as soon as you begin. Course instructors are fully committed to your success!

**Caring Arts and Science Across the Lifespan (CASAL I) Learning Environment**

All reading activities, discussion questions, quizzes, and learning resources for this course are found by accessing the Caring Arts and Science Across the Lifespan (CASAL I) learning environment.

**Learning Environment**
Your course material is available within the Soomo learning environment.

Click the following button to launch the course:

[Launch Course](#)

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**Final Steps**

Congratulations on completing the activities in this course! This section will guide you through the assessment process.

**ATI Exam**

**Accessing Outside Vendor Assessments**

Complete the following outside vendor assessment:

- ATI RN Fundamentals
Refer for this exam through the "Assessment" tab in this course. WGU considers the achievement of Level 2 to be the demonstration of competency for ATI exams, regardless of any numerical score representation. The achievement of a Level 2 or greater is necessary in order to demonstrate competency and thus successfully pass the assessment.

For directions on how to receive access to outside vendor assessments, see the “Accessing Objective and Outside Vendor Assessments” page.