Your competence will be assessed as you complete the objective assessment for Critical Care Nursing, in conjunction with the clinical simulation and the clinical intensive assessments. The course covers 6 competencies and represents 4 competency units.

Introduction

Overview
Over 80,000 nurses are current members of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), the largest specialty nursing organization in the world. Caring for critically ill patients requires organization and sharp critical thinking skills. There is a reason why intensive care is called intensive. You will see that intensive care does not only happen in intensive care units, but can occur in emergency rooms, in surgery, in transport, and sometimes on the battlefield or during a disaster. It can also occur on the medical-surgical unit when a patient suddenly has a cardiac arrest or becomes unstable, or when a newly delivered baby is in serious distress. Intensive care begins the moment an unstable patient requires continual monitoring and vigilance, the moment when every piece of patient data is scrutinized and analyzed, and the moment when the nurse’s decisions can make the difference between life and death.

At this point in your program, you are beginning to refine your critical thinking skills by integrating your understanding of physiology, pathology, pharmacology, and the nursing process and applying them to varied situations experienced by patients and families. Remember to ask questions and to examine what you know and what you do not know.

Competencies
This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 6 competencies:

- **Competency 726.9.1: The Critical Care Environment**
  The graduate collaborates with the critical care interdisciplinary team and communicates in a manner that supports a positive work environment.

- **Competency 726.9.2: Assessment of the Critically Ill Patient**
  The graduate performs both a general and focused physical assessment appropriate to the needs of the critically ill patient.

- **Competency 726.9.3: Education of the Critically Ill Patient & Family**
  The graduate integrates principles of patient education in assessing and responding to the learning needs of critically ill patients and their families.

- **Competency 726.9.4: Caring for the Physiological Needs of the Critically Ill Patient**
  The graduate uses cognitive knowledge and clinical reasoning to plan and provide safe, quality, patient-centered care to the critically ill patient.

- **Competency 726.9.5: Caring for the Psychosocial Needs of the Critically Ill Patient**
  The graduate provides compassionate, patient-centered care to patients and families to support their psychosocial needs.

- **Competency 726.9.6: Legal and Ethical Issues in Critical Care**
  The graduate plans and provides care to critically ill patients and their families incorporating knowledge of legal standards and ethical principles.
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!

Critical Care Nursing Learning Environment

All reading activities, discussion questions, quizzes, and learning resources for this course are found by accessing the Critical Care Nursing learning environment.

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

Click the following button to launch the course:

Launch Course

Final Steps

Congratulations on completing the activities in this course! This course has prepared you to complete the assessments associated with this course. If you have not already been directed to complete the assessments, schedule and complete your assessments now.