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 (AXA1), and the clinical intensive (AYA1). 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 Standards**
You will be able to access Nursing Professional Standards as they apply to your program through the WGU Library. Please access these documents at the following website:

- [Nursing Standards E-Reserves](#)

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

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

Successful students report that working with a course mentor is the key to their success. Course mentors 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 mentors act as a support system to guide you through the revision process. You should expect to work with course mentors for the duration of your coursework, and you are encouraged to contact them as soon as you begin. Course mentors are fully committed to your success!

**Preparing for Success**

The information in this section is provided to detail the resources available for you to use as you complete this course.

**Learning Resources**
The learning resources listed in this section are required to complete the activities in this course. For many resources, WGU has provided automatic access through the course. However, you may need to manually enroll in or independently acquire other resources. Read the full instructions provided to ensure that you have access to all of your resources in a timely manner.

**Manually Enrolled Resources**

Take a moment to enroll in the learning resources listed in this section. To enroll, navigate to the “Learning Resources” tab, click the “Sections” button, and then click the “Enroll Now” button for each resource. Once your mentor approves your enrollment in the resource, you will receive an e-mail with further access instructions. Contact your mentor if you have questions.

**Elsevier Evolve**
The following online course is separate from the e-text enrollment. Enroll for the following online courseware through the Learning Resources tab:

- Potter & Perry: Fundamentals of Nursing (8th ed.)
For assistance locating the Evolve materials assigned in the activities of this course, see the following help document:

- [Elsevier Evolve Navigation Instructions](#)

**Evolve Case Studies Complete RN Collection 2014**
In addition to the courseware aligned to your e-text, your enrollment in Elsevier Evolve also provides access to Evolve's HESI Case Studies Complete RN Collection 2014. Once you have enrolled, please follow the instructions below to access the case studies for this course:

1. Log in to your account at Evolve.
2. Under the "My Evolve" tab (top left),
3. Click on "HESI Complete RN Collection."
4. Click on "HESI Case Studies."
5. Click on the folder "Fundamentals."
6. Select the assigned case and read the directions.

You will be provided feedback throughout the case study and a performance score upon completion.

**Mosby Skills**
You will be enrolled in this resource manually by our learning resources staff within two business days of the starting month. Go to the following website to login with the listed credentials:

- [Mosby Skills Login](#)

Login Credentials:

- Username: [Your WGU portal login]
- Password: hello

The different sets of skills you will interact with throughout your program are listed under the Pending Tasks or Tasks link. Follow the instructions within the Soomo learning environment to access the appropriate skills for your course.

**Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI)**
This course utilizes learning modules from ATI. Enroll for access through the Learning Resources tab. Follow the instructions below for specific directions.

**ATI Registration**
You will need to create an account in ATI.

- [First Time Registration in ATI document](#)

**Joining ATI Section**
You will need to enroll in the ATI Nursing Fundamentals Section associated with this course. See "How to Join a Section in ATI."

Skills Modules and Tutorials
Throughout this course you will be asked to complete skills and pharmacology tutorials available on the ATI website. Please complete the tutorial lessons and the post-tests as assigned. You must pass the post-test with a score of 75% or better. The time you spend in the tutorials is tracked by the program. Although you can repeat the post-test multiple times, only the first two attempts will be considered as an indication of your having mastered the content. The system does not permit you to repeat a post-test for 48 to 72 hours, so plan accordingly. If you do not pass on your second attempt, contact your course mentor for instructions about how you can further your understanding of the material. Be prepared to demonstrate your newly acquired skills in future learning labs and clinicals.

- **How to Use Tutorials**

Automatically Enrolled Resources

You can access the learning resources listed in this section by clicking on the links provided throughout the course. You may be prompted to log in to the WGU student portal to access the resources.

Soomo Learning Environment

The following learning environment will be utilized as the primary learning resource for completion of this course:

- **Caring Arts and Science Across the Lifespan I (CASAL 1, DTV1)**

This learning environment will contain links at the activity level to the following additional learning resources:

VitalSource E-Texts

The following textbooks are available to you as e-texts within this course. You will be directly linked to the specific readings required within the activities that follow.


*Note: These e-texts are available to you as part of your program tuition and fees, but you may purchase hard copies at your own expense through a retailer of your choice. If you choose to do so, please use the ISBN listed to ensure that you receive the correct edition.*

Purchase Learning Resources

Listed below are the learning resource materials you will need to obtain.
Smart Phone/PDA Software
As a WGU nursing student, you are required to purchase Unbound Medicine's Nursing Central. This software includes *Davis's Drug Guide*, *Davis's Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests, Diseases and Disorders*, and the *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary*. This application is a valuable resource and is being offered at a discounted price to WGU students. It is strongly recommended that you purchase the Nurse's Pocket Guide along with Nursing Central.

Access [Unbound Medicine](#) to purchase two years of access to the following products at a discount.

- Nursing Central by Unbound Medicine
- Nurse’s Pocket Guide by Unbound Medicine

You will be required to have this software available on your smart phone or PDA throughout your program. You will be expected to bring your smart phone or PDA to both your learning labs and your clinical intensives.

Access "[Nursing Central iPhone Demo](#)" to view the YouTube demo.

*Note: Nursing Central can also be accessed from your desktop, but you are required to have it on your smart phone or PDA. You will automatically obtain the latest edition of Nursing Central when you purchase and download it. Every time you sync your smart phone or PDA with Unbound Medicine, you will also automatically receive the latest updates and editions."

Other Learning Resources
You will use the following learning resources for this course.

Supplemental NCLEX Study Guide
To assist you in preparing for the NCLEX exam and to review content, the following book is available to you in e-text form. This text is supplemental and will not be linked specifically in any of the activities, but you have access to this resource in e-text form by clicking the linked title provided below:


WGUNursesRock
The [WGUNursesRock](#) website is an excellent resource to help you throughout your studies in the BSRN nursing program. It was developed by one of the course mentors for this program. The site includes resources to help with test taking, prioritizing your time, management, how to utilize SBAR, resources on the body systems, and pharmacology and lab values. If you are looking for more information on any of these topics don’t hesitate to check out [WGUNursesRock](#).

CASAL I Learning Community
You will find a link to the CASAL I Learning Community on your Learning Resources tab. This community contains announcements, student postings and mentor tips for successfully completing this course. All students are expected to access the community on a regular basis.

**Accessing and Using Pass-Port**
You will need to access the portfolio software, Pass-Port, used in this course and many other courses. You will use this software to create a clinical journal and to receive feedback while attending clinical.

- [Accessing PASS-PORT](#)
- [Creating a Clinical Field Experience Form](#)
- [How to Use Your Clinical Experience Form](#)
- [Requesting a Recommendation](#)

**Clinical Preparations**

**Preparing for Clinical Intensive and Clinical Learning Labs**
There is a great deal of preparation that accompanies a course with a clinical intensive. This course includes assignments that you must complete in order to attend clinical.

**Attend Clinical Learning Labs**
In the clinical learning labs, you will learn specific nursing skills that you need in order to provide safe, quality nursing care. You will be required to demonstrate your skills competency in a nursing skills assessment on the last scheduled day of lab. You must pass this assessment in order to progress to clinical. Please review "Course Progression" in the Student Handbook for more information.

**Attend Clinical Intensive**
Once you have completed the theory portion of this course and passed the clinical learning lab assessment, you will be ready to engage in the in-hospital clinical experience. This typically occurs during or after the eighth week of the course. Based on your performance in the course, your mentor will refer you for clinical intensive. If referred, the Clinical Placement Scheduler will schedule and notify you of your clinical placement. Once in clinical intensive, you are expected to adhere to professional standards in clinical practice. Please refer to the Student Handbook and the CASAL I learning environment for more information.

**Pacing Guide**
The pacing guide suggests a weekly structure to pace your completion of learning activities. It is provided as a suggestion and does not represent a mandatory schedule. Follow the pacing guide carefully to complete the course in the suggested timeframe.

- [Pacing Guide: Caring Arts and Sciences Across the Lifespan I (CASAL I)](#)

*Note: This pacing guide does not replace the course. Please continue to refer to the course for a comprehensive list of the resources and activities.*

**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
The material for this course is housed in a separate learning environment. In this learning resource, you will be able to

- complete the activities and reading assignments to prepare for the assessment for this course;
- answer the quizzes to gauge your learning; and
- communicate with your mentor and other students as you study.

Once you have completed the material within the learning environment, you should return to this course for the information for your exam.

This topic addressed the following 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.

**Learning Materials**

Access the learning environment for this course at the following link and complete the readings, activities, and quizzes for the following section:

- [Caring Arts and Science Across the Lifespan (CASAL 1)]

**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.

**The WGU Library**

The WGU Library

The [WGU Library](#) is available online to WGU students 24 hours a day.

For more information about using the WGU Library, view the following videos on The WGU Channel:

Introducing the WGU library

*Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...": [download video](#).*

Searching the WGU library

*Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...": [download video](#).*

**Center for Writing Excellence: The WGU Writing Center**

If you need help with any part of the writing or revision process, contact the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE). Whatever your needs—writing anxiety, grammar, general college writing concerns, or even ESL language-related writing issues—the CWE is available to help you. The CWE offers personalized individual sessions and weekly group webinars. For an appointment, please e-mail [writingcenter@wgu.edu](mailto:writingcenter@wgu.edu).

**Feedback**

WGU values your input! If you have comments, concerns, or suggestions for improvement of this course, please submit your feedback using the following form:
Accessibility Policy

Western Governors University recognizes and fulfills its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and similar state laws. Western Governors University is committed to provide reasonable accommodation(s) to qualified disabled learners in University programs and activities as is required by applicable law(s). The Office of Student Accessibility Services serves as the principal point of contact for students seeking accommodations and can be contacted at ADASupport@wgu.edu. Further information on WGU’s Accessibility policy and process can be viewed in the student handbook at the following link:

- [Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities](#)