



**COURSE OUTLINE : NS 277**  
**C Credit – Not Degree Applicable**  
**COURSE ID 010491**  
**Cyclical Review: September 2021**

**COURSE DISCIPLINE :** NS  
**COURSE NUMBER :** 277  
**COURSE TITLE (FULL) :** Critical Care Specialty Nursing  
**COURSE TITLE (SHORT) :** CCSN  
**ACADEMIC SENATE DISCIPLINE:** Nursing

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

NS 277 focuses on a comprehensive range of nursing knowledge of the adult patient in need of critical care. Topics included are evidence-based knowledge, skills and attitude to adequately and competently provide high-quality and safe patient care in the critical care setting. The course includes the use of technology, including simulation, while incorporating psychosocial and other holistic approaches as needed to the patient's situation and condition. In addition, the course discusses how to distinguish dependent and independent nursing actions and how to work collaboratively with the interdisciplinary healthcare team.

**CATALOG NOTES**

Note: Applicant should be a Licensed Registered Nurse (RN) by the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) and carry a Basic Life Support (BLS) certificate. One year of RN experience in medical-surgical care, telemetry, or on a step down unit within the last two years, or recommendation from the current hospital employer is required. Note: This course is a Pass/No Pass only.

Total Lecture Units:3.00

Total Laboratory Units: 0.50

**Total Course Units: 3.50**

Total Lecture Hours:54.00

Total Laboratory Hours: 27.00

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.00

**Total Contact Hours: 81.00**

**Total Out-of-Class Hours: 108.00**

Prerequisite: None



**ENTRY STANDARDS**

	Subject	Number	Title	Description	Include
1				Utilize the nursing process as a framework in providing care for the client/family with unmet needs;	Yes
2				assess, analyze and address the biological, cultural, spiritual, environmental, and socioeconomic realms, and the impact they exert on the acute care clients and family;	Yes
3				calculate and administer medications of all routes accurately as prescribed by the healthcare providers;	Yes
4				document and communicate nursing care activities and client responses to the plan of care utilizing Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) competencies.	Yes

**EXIT STANDARDS**

- 1 Identify environmental factors influencing the role of the critical care nurse and implement evidence-based care strategies to prevent hospital-associated infections and complications;
- 2 Analyze pathophysiological behaviors of the major body systems and incorporate assessment findings and patient responses into the delivery of patient care.
- 3 Recognize signs and symptoms of common conditions experienced by acutely ill patients requiring critical care nursing.
- 4 Apply bio-cultural, psychosocial, and other holistic approaches in diverse population to make accurate assessment and plan interventions as appropriate to the time and condition of the patient.
- 5 Evaluate assessment data, and determine priority interventions for patients with critical illness.
- 6 Perform various monitoring modalities in evaluating patient progress and making patient care decisions.
- 7 Anticipate potential complications, and take steps to prevent them by applying treatment protocols based on critical care policies, procedures and professional standards.
- 8 Assess the effectiveness of pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions for patients experiencing critical illness.
- 9 Develop a collaborative and collegial working relationship with other healthcare team members.
- 10 Identify ethical dilemmas and legal issues related to critical care nursing.



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11 Develop constructive personal coping behaviors when functioning as a critical care nurse.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- 1 Provide comprehensive nursing care for critically ill patient populations with complex illness(es)
- 2 Integrate clinical judgment and critical knowledge, skill, and attitude in the nursing process.

**COURSE CONTENT WITH INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS**

	Description	Lecture	Lab	Total Hours
1	Foundations to critical care nursing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical care nursing practice</li> <li>• Ethical issues</li> <li>• Legal issues</li> <li>• Patient and family education</li> <li>• Psycho-social alterations and management</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition alterations and management</li> <li>• Pain and pain management</li> <li>• Sedation, agitation, delirium management</li> <li>• End-of-life care</li> </ul>	4	3	7
2	Cardiovascular alterations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiovascular anatomy and physiology</li> <li>• Cardiovascular clinical assessment</li> <li>• Cardiovascular diagnostic procedures</li> <li>• Cardiovascular disorders</li> <li>• Cardiovascular therapeutic management</li> </ul>	8	3	11
3	Pulmonary alterations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pulmonary anatomy and physiology</li> <li>• Pulmonary clinical assessment</li> <li>• Pulmonary diagnostic procedures</li> <li>• Pulmonary disorders</li> <li>• Pulmonary therapeutic management</li> </ul>	8	3	11
4	Neurological alterations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neurological anatomy and physiology</li> <li>• Neurological clinical assessment and diagnostic procedures</li> <li>• Neurological disorders and therapeutic management</li> </ul>	8	4	12



5	<b>Kidney alterations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kidney anatomy and physiology</li> <li>• Kidney clinical assessment and diagnostic procedures</li> <li>• Kidney disorders and therapeutic management</li> </ul>	5	3	8
6	<b>Gastrointestinal alterations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gastrointestinal anatomy and physiology</li> <li>• Gastrointestinal clinical assessment and diagnostic procedures</li> <li>• Gastrointestinal disorders and therapeutic management</li> </ul>	5	3	8
7	<b>Endocrine alterations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endocrine anatomy and physiology</li> <li>• Endocrine clinical assessment and diagnostic procedures</li> <li>• Endocrine disorders and therapeutic management</li> </ul>	4	3	7
8	<b>Multi-system alterations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trauma</li> <li>• Shock, sepsis, and multiple organ dysfunction syndrome</li> <li>• Burns</li> <li>• Organ donation and transplantation</li> <li>• Hematologic and oncologic emergencies</li> </ul>	8	4	12
9	<b>Special populations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older adult patient</li> <li>• Peri-anesthesia patient</li> </ul>	4	1	5
				<b>81</b>

**OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

- 1 Simulated case studies (eg patients with multiple morbidities) in small groups with class presentations.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- 1 Weekly quizzes;
- 2 electrocardiogram (ECG) examination (e.g. interpreting ECG rhythm strips);
- 3 final comprehensive examination.



**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- Lecture
- Laboratory
- Studio
- Discussion
- Multimedia
- Tutorial
- Independent Study
- Collaboratory Learning
- Demonstration
- Field Activities (Trips)
- Guest Speakers
- Presentations

**TEXTBOOKS**

Title	Type	Publisher	Edition	Medium	Author	ISBN	Date
ECGs Made Easy		Elsevier	6		Aehlert, Barbara	9780323401302	2016
Critical Care Nursing: Diagnosis and Management		Elsevier	8		Urden, Linda Diann	9780323447522	2016

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