

Prepared by the Department of Health Sciences  
Date of Departmental Approval: October 22, 2007  
Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: January 17, 2008

Effective: Fall 2008

1. **Course Number:** NUR203  
**Course Title:** Foundations of the Profession
2. **Description:** This nursing course analyzes the practice of nursing in contemporary society. Historical perspectives and current issues and trends are studied. Accountability, legal responsibilities of licensure, the ethical issues arising in the present health care systems, and leadership and management in nursing are major units of study. Political, economic, social, and cultural influences in nursing practice are considered.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes (instructional objectives: intellectual skills):**  
Upon completion of this course the student are able to do the following:
  - Demonstrate knowledge of the current system of nursing education and its impact on nursing practice.
  - Describe current issues in nursing practice.
  - Identify the influence of history on current nursing and health care practice.
  - Identify the legal responsibilities for one's own practice.
  - Use process of ethical decision making to analyze ethical dilemmas.
  - Describe the impact of political, economic, social and cultural factors on nursing and the health care delivery system.
  - Describe the job market and the process of obtaining employment as a registered nurse.
  - Describe the basic concepts of managing client care.
  - Identify the principles of safe, effective delegation to unlicensed, assistive personnel.
  - Select and defend choices of information based on ethical, legal and socioeconomic issues surrounding information technology as it relates to nursing.
4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** No
6. **Prerequisite:** NUR201
7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Spring
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Written Work, Student Presentations, and Examinations.
9. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**
  - A. Historical Overview – Nursing as a developing profession
  - B. The Job Search
    - a. Resume preparation
    - b. The interview
  - C. Nursing Practice Roles
    - a. Beginning (novice) staff nurse positions
    - b. Advanced practice and clinical specialist roles
    - c. Rural, urban and international nursing
  - D. Educational Preparation for Nursing
    - a. Basic education preparation
    - b. Preparation for advanced/expanded roles
  - E. Credentials for Nursing Practice
    - a. Licensure
    - b. Continuing Education
  - F. Legal Responsibilities for Nursing Practice
  - G. Ethical Decision-Making
  - H. Health Care Delivery System
  - I. Cultural Influences on Nursing Practice