

**Nursing 344
Mental Health Nursing Clinical Syllabus
Summer 2021**

Welcome to the Mental Health clinical experience. We hope that you will gain an appreciation for the psychiatric client, learn about mental health and mental illnesses, and learn about yourself.

Catalog Description: Application of mental health concepts to provide nursing care to clients experiencing alterations in mental health.

Class Location: Hybrid clinical format consisting of visiting Medical Center 6B and completing online activities due to COVID-19. Will complete online assignments, simulation activities, presentations, and conferences through Zoom.

Course Credit: 1.0 Credit Hour

Prerequisites: NURS 324, 333, 334, 335, 336,

Co-Requisites: NURS 329, 341, 342, 343, 337

Course Coordinator and Clinical Faculty

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NURS 344 Course Coordinator

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Clinical Agency Phone Number & Address

Medical Center 6B- 270-796-6398 250 Park Street Bowling Green, KY

Students are responsible for all policies in the WKU School of Nursing Handbook. The policies, procedures, dates and other information contained in this syllabus are subject to change. Students will be given notice of changes should they be needed.

Program Outcomes	Course Objectives	Teaching/Evaluation Methods
1. Apply knowledge from the behavioral, biological, physical, and social sciences, and the liberal arts to provide holistic patient-centered care.	1. Integrate knowledge from other disciplines and previous nursing course work as it relates to the nursing care of mental health patients.	-Assigned Readings -Patient Care Assignments and observation experiences -Written care plan, process recording and other papers -Clinical pre and post conference discussions
2. Use the nursing process and quality improvement to provide professional nursing care to promote the health and wellness of culturally diverse patients across the lifespan in a variety of settings	2. Utilize the nursing process to identify mental health nursing problems and provide care for patients.	-Assigned Readings -Patient Care Assignments and observation experiences -Written care plan, process recording and other papers -Clinical pre and post conference discussions
3. Demonstrate leadership in the practice of professional nursing.	3. Collaborate with interdisciplinary team in designing/managing holistic care of individuals, families and groups with mental health issues.	-Patient Care Assignments and observation experiences -Written care plan, process recording and other papers -Clinical pre and post conference discussions
4. Use critical thinking skills in professional nursing practice.	4. Prioritize nursing interventions in providing care for mental health patients.	-Patient Care Assignments and observation experiences -Written care plan, process recording and other papers -Clinical pre and post conference discussions
5. Use inter- and intraprofessional communication and collaborative skills in professional nursing practice.	5. Demonstrate understanding of appropriate communication techniques to be used with patients and other health professionals.	-Patient Care Assignments and observation experiences -Clinical pre and post conference discussions
6. Demonstrate the role of teacher in professional nursing practice.	6. Identify the teaching-learning needs of individuals, families, and groups with selected mental health alterations.	-Patient Care Assignments and observation experiences -Written care plan, process recording and other papers -Clinical pre and post conference discussions
7. Integrate informatics skills in the selection of evidence-based interventions in professional nursing practice.	7. Identify evidence-based interventions for care of mental health patients.	-Assigned Readings -Patient Care Assignments and observation experiences -Written care plan, process recording and other papers -Clinical pre and post conference discussions
8. Adhere to the nursing code of ethics and standards of professional nursing practice.	8. Adhere to the nursing code of ethics and standards of professional nursing practice.	-Patient Care Assignments and observation experiences -Written care plan, process recording and other papers -Clinical pre and post conference discussions -Following ANA standards, SON Code of Conduct, NSNA Code of Ethics and WKU policies
9. Function as safe and accountable member of the nursing profession.	9. Function as an accountable member of the nursing profession.	-Patient Care Assignments and observation experiences -Written care plan, process recording and other papers -Clinical pre and post conference discussions -Following ANA standards, SON Code of Conduct, NSNA Code of Ethics and WKU policies

Nursing 344 Clinical Objectives

***These clinical objectives will be listed on your clinical evaluation and are the criteria by which your clinical performance is measured.**

Objective 1: Integrate knowledge from other disciplines and previous nursing coursework as it relates to the nursing care of mental health patients.

Student Learning Outcomes
1.1 Demonstrates clinical expertise in nursing skills by performing the following clinical nursing skills with mental health patients: -therapeutic communication -collection of health history and psychosocial/physical assessment
1.2 Performs skills proficiently and safely according to standard nursing practice and facility policy with classmates and faculty.
1.3 Correctly prepares and administers medications if indicated. Articulates the rationale of drug administration as well as expected therapeutic effects and side effects.
1.4 Demonstrates safe practice when using equipment
1.5 Discusses prior knowledge and skills learned that contribute to holistic care of patients with mental illness.

Objective 2: Utilize the nursing process to identify mental health nursing problems and appropriate care for mental health patients.

Student Learning Outcomes
2.1 Collects accurate subjective and objective data from relevant sources
2.2 Interprets significant laboratory values and trends.
2.3 Accurately interprets psychosocial and physical assessment data and relates to patient situation.
2.4 Performs appropriate assessment for pre and post procedures and diagnostic tests for mental health patients.
2.5 Selects appropriate physiological and psychological diagnoses using current NANDA nomenclature.
2.6 Accurately prioritizes nursing diagnoses for mental health patients and provides rationale for prioritization.
2.7 Writes realistic outcome criteria for mental health patients in specific measurable terms.
2.8 Develops nursing interventions that are patient-centered, specific, and realistic for patient with mental illness.

Objective 3: Collaborate with interdisciplinary team in designing/managing holistic care of individuals, families and groups with mental health issues

Student Learning Outcomes
3.1 Coordinates care of patients with clinical instructor, primary nurse, and/or other healthcare providers. Recognizes significant changes in patient status and immediately reports to clinical instructor, primary nurse, and/or other healthcare providers.
3.2 Consistently gives report prior to leaving the unit. Does not leave the unit without informing instructor.

3.3 Consults with the healthcare team

Objective 4: Prioritize nursing interventions in providing care for mental health patients

Student Learning Outcomes

4.1 Identifies priority assessment data and psychosocial and physical interventions for mental health patients.

4.2 Creates individualized plans of care based on rationale supported by evidence-based practice.

4.3 Participates in achieving patient outcomes.

Objective 5: Demonstrate understanding of appropriate communication techniques to be used with patients and other health professionals

Student Learning Outcomes

5.1 Communicates with instructor and healthcare team throughout the shift by seeking feedback and asking questions.

5.2 Communicates with mental health patients by using therapeutic communication techniques.

5.3 Keeps accurate records of patient data and documents according to hospital policy

Objective 6: Identify the teaching-learning needs of individuals, families, and groups with selected mental health alterations

Student Learning Outcomes

6.1 Explores and identifies teaching needs of patients and families affected by mental illness in collaboration with instructor.
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6.2 Creates individualized teaching plans based on identified needs.
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6.3 Participates in teaching role with guidance of instructor.
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Objective 7: Identify evidence-based interventions for care of mental health patients

Student Outcomes

7.1 Identifies supporting policy and evidence of current practice related to mental health patients.
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7.2 Utilizes appropriate resources (instructor, reference books, policy/procedure manuals).

Objective 8: Adhere to the nursing code of ethics and standards of professional nursing practice

Student Learning Outcomes

8.1 Provides patient-centered care in a compassionate and professional manner to those with mental illnesses.

8.2 Utilizes ANA Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Nursing Practice as a guide for planning and implementing care.

8.3 Discusses ethical dilemmas and legal implications for care of mental health patients.

Objective 9: Function as an accountable member of the nursing profession

Student Learning Outcomes
9.1 Utilizes appropriate resources (instructor, reference books, and policy and procedure manuals).
9.2 Punctual in attendance and notifies clinical instructor if unable to attend clinical.
9.3 Follows the ANA Code of Ethics.
9.4 Demonstrates accountability by arriving to scheduled shifts on time, performing nursing responsibilities, informing instructor when uncomfortable with performing skills and when skills have not been previously performed in the clinical setting.
9.5 Strictly maintains confidentiality of all patient data.
9.6 Follows all policies established by the School of Nursing, the University, and the Clinical Agency (See student and university handbook.)

Required Text:

Varcarolis, E. M. (2021). *Essentials of psychiatric mental health nursing: A communication approach to evidence-based care* (4th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

Dress code:

When visiting clinical facilities, students must abide by the WKU BSN dress code, which is outlined in the WKU BSN Student Handbook and the BSN Professional Standards Tool. Students are to wear a red WKU School of Nursing polo shirt with khaki or black slacks, or black scrub pants (**NO capris, leggings, jeans, athletic pants, tapered (skinny pants), or tight-fitting slacks**). A solid black or white long-sleeve shirt may be worn under your polo shirt (if needed). You can wear your lab coat if you prefer (sweatshirts, pullovers, and jackets should not be worn over your clinical uniform). Shirts and pants should be of an appropriate size and not cling to the body. No logos other than WKU or WKU School of Nursing are allowed on shirts. ***Please note, due to COVID-19 and the difficulty you may experience with purchasing a WKU School of Nursing polo shirt, we will allow you to wear your School of Nursing Scrubs this semester if necessary (please note it is expected that you wear a polo in certain future clinical courses).** Clean tennis shoes or other comfortable shoes with closed toes and socks should be worn (high heels and dress flats are not allowed). Only one small piercing per ear is allowed (no dangling earrings). No other face/head/neck/tongue jewelry is allowed. Necklaces should not be worn due to safety concerns. Tattoos should be covered per BSN and facility policies. Students should not wear electronic watches in the clinical setting. Students not adhering to the dress code may be asked to leave clinical. **See the BSN Professional Standards Tool for more details on dress code.**

School of Nursing statement regarding wearing masks during COVID-19: Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with the CDC guidelines, the University requires that a cloth face covering (or medical mask, reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear masks while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face mask as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will

face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Medical need for accommodations to the mask requirement for non-clinical experiences must be obtained from a physician or nurse practitioner and then reasonable accommodations to the mask requirement must be determined by the Student Accessibility Resource Center and documented before a student may attend class without a mask. *Nursing students may not go to clinical without a mask due to increased risk of exposing vulnerable patients to disease. Any student who is medically unable to wear a mask will not be able to participate in face-to-face clinical activities at this time.

Continuity of Instruction Guidelines regarding COVID-19:

- Students should not attend face-to-face lab if they experience symptoms, have been exposed, or test positive.
- A positive test is not required for an excused absence.
- A document indicating that it is safe to return to lab is requested.
- Contact your lab faculty if you will be absent at least one-hour prior to the start of lab.
- Course instructional materials and assignments are available on Blackboard to allow the student the ability to complete as much of the missed course work online.
- Students will be worked with on an individual basis to ensure course work is completed in the safest manner for the student, faculty, and their peers.
- There is a COVID-19 feature in the iWKU mobile app where you can find links to important COVID-19 resources and even a daily self-check survey. To download the app, search for iWKU in the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

For more details on COVID-19 and WKU's Healthy on the Hill plan, please visit <https://www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill/>

Evaluation Methods:

- NURS 344 is a pass/fail course; therefore, no letter grade will be assigned. Students must achieve a satisfactory clinical evaluation (at 77% or above) and a satisfactory evaluation on each of the clinical objectives listed on the evaluation tool to pass NURS 344. Satisfactory performance is based on faculty evaluation in the clinical setting and on assignments. Students should refer to the WKU BSN Handbook for specific policies regarding repeating courses.

Points will be distributed as follows:

Attendance and Professionalism	15 Points
Completion of Quiz Over Introductory Chapters	10 Points
Reflective Journal over 6B Clinical Experience	5 Points
Reflective Journal over AA Meeting Experience	10 Points
Care Plan On Movie Character with Mental Illness	15 Points
HESI Patient Reviews	10 Points
Poverty Activity & Reflection	5 Points
SBIRT Training & Quiz	10 Points
Presentation Over Mental Health Disorder	20 Points

Total Points

100 Points

-Turning in assignments late: See the BSN Professional Standards Tool for how points will be deducted from Attendance and Professional Points when assignments are turned in late.

-Students must complete all assignments for the course before a final grade will be awarded. Students with missing assignments will receive an incomplete (X) for the course until all work is completed. Incompletes must be removed per university policy or the grade will become an "F".

-If a student has a question or concern regarding a grade on a clinical assignment or quiz, the student must contact their clinical instructor within one week after the grade has been posted; otherwise, no further adjustments will be made to the grade.

- Point values/percentages are **NOT** rounded for this course.

***A clinical schedule will be provided on Blackboard.**

Description of Assignments and Course Expectations:

Attendance and Professionalism Points (15 possible points): *It is each student's responsibility to review and sign the "Assumption of Risk" document that was sent by the School of Nursing prior to the start of this clinical rotation. Attendance is mandatory. If a student cannot attend clinical, they are to notify their clinical instructor by phone (no emails will be accepted) prior to the beginning of clinical. A student illness or injury is an example of an event that may be considered an excused absence. Faculty may request documentation for more than one absence. On days you are meeting with your instructor via Zoom, it is required that you attend and be on time when the session begins.

When a student fails to notify the course faculty of the absence prior to the beginning of clinical, the absence will be regarded as a "no call, no show" situation and result in an unexcused absence. A student with one unexcused absence in a clinical will receive a clinical warning and earn zero points for any make-up assignments. This student must also attend a follow-up meeting with the course coordinator. Students with two unexcused clinical absences will be dismissed from the course and a grade of "F" will be recorded in TopNet. If extenuating circumstances prevent the student from communicating the absence, the student may petition the course faculty for a waiver of this policy. Students who seek this waiver are required to provide documentation of the nature of this serious event and their fitness to return to clinical. Please see the WKU School of Nursing Handbook for further details on the clinical attendance policy. Professionalism in communication and attitude are also expected.

Please see the **BSN Professional Standards Evaluation Tool** for how attendance and professionalism will be evaluated (a copy is posted on Blackboard). **For each demerit point that you receive on this tool, you will receive a deduction of the same number of points from Attendance and Professionalism (up to a maximum deduction of 15 points).**

Mental Health Clinical Orientation: At the start of the student's clinical rotation, the student will participate in an online Mental Health Clinical Orientation via Zoom.

Introductory Chapter Quiz (10 Possible Points)

Students will need to read chapters 5, 7 and 21 in the Varcarolis textbook within one week of your clinical orientation. You are not to work with other students while completing the quiz.

Reflective Journal over 6B Clinical Experience (5 Possible Points)

Each journal will be graded on the following:

Timeliness (due within one week)

Spelling and grammar

2 points

Clarity, thoughtfulness and complete answers to questions posed

3 points

***Each question should be answered with at least 4-5 sentences**

1. What did you learn about the role of the nurse on 6B?
2. a) What were your first thoughts about the patient you spoke with? (Be honest)
b) What were your thoughts of the patient after your assessment?
3. Identify 2 therapeutic communication techniques (use your textbook) that were effective and utilized during the conversation with your patient.
4. a) Describe a portion of your conversation with the patient that was ineffective/non-therapeutic.
b) Which therapeutic communication techniques (use your textbook) could have been utilized to increase effectiveness?
5. What interventions or community resources might be necessary to assist this patient after discharge?

Reflective Journal over Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meeting Experience (10 Possible Points)

Students in Nursing 344 will learn about the impact and effects of substance abuse on individuals and the community. As part of clinical, each student will attend an in-person or online Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. To find a list of in-person and online meetings you can visit the following website:

https://www.area26.net/wp/?tsml-day=any&tsml-type=ONL&post_type=tsml_meeting

*Be sure that you choose a meeting that is listed as OPEN (closed meetings are for members only). You can search for meetings in Bowling Green or within your own community if you prefer (be sure to choose the correct city when you are searching). If you need assistance with finding a meeting, please reach out to your instructor. **Be sure to identify yourself as a**

WKU BSN student and always display professionalism (be attentive and respectful). If you are meeting on Zoom keep your camera on and mute your mic if not speaking.

After attending an Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, students will complete a reflective journal assignment.

Each journal will be graded on the following:

Timeliness (due within one week)

Spelling and grammar

2 points

Clarity, thoughtfulness and complete answers to questions posed

8 points

***Each question should be answered with at least 4-5 sentences**

1. Describe the basics of the meeting:
 - a. What was the name of the meeting group that you attended?
 - b. What time of day was the meeting held?
 - c. Approximately how many people attended?
2. Describe the characteristics of the AA meeting group members:
 - a. How was leadership demonstrated?
 - b. Describe the participation of those in attendance.
 - c. Describe the cohesiveness of the group.
 - d. How was support for each member demonstrated?
3. What did you learn about the 12-step program? If the program was not specifically mentioned, use your book to describe how members could apply the 12-steps to their recovery.
4. Personal reflection:
 - a. What did you learn about yourself?
 - b. Did your perception of addictions change or stay the same? Describe how they did or did not change.

Care Plan Over Movie Character with Mental Illness (15 Possible Points)

Each student will choose a movie that focuses on a character with a mental illness and will complete a care plan over the movie character (the care plan template is located on Blackboard under the “content” tab). You can access these movies through various online streaming programs, including Amazon Prime (offers a free 6-month trial for students), Netflix, Hulu, IMDB TV (free service), YouTube, HBO Max, etc. **Please note that the WKU Library is providing free streaming access to 3 movies (details on accessing these movies are posted on Blackboard).** Movie recommendations include: A Beautiful Mind, Girl Interrupted, One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Rain Man, Shutter Island, Mr. Jones, As Good as it Gets, The Aviator, Sybil, Frances, Dirty Filthy Love. If you are having issues with finding an appropriate movie, please contact your clinical instructor.

HESI Patient Reviews (10 Possible Points)

Students will be assigned 2 HESI Patient Reviews to complete (each one will be worth 5 points). Students must achieve a score of at least 77% on each Patient Review to receive credit. Details on accessing and completing this assignment will be posted on Blackboard.

Poverty Activity & Reflection (5 Possible Points)

Students will be provided with various media sources regarding the experience of living in poverty (these sources are posted on Blackboard under the “content” tab). Students will then complete a reflective journal to discuss what the student learned.

Each journal will be graded on the following:

Timeliness (due date provided on weekly schedule)	
Spelling and grammar	2 points
Clarity, thoughtfulness and complete answers to questions posed	3 points
*Each question should be answered with at least 4-5 sentences	

Students will need to answer the following 4 questions:

- 1) Did completing this activity affect your view of individuals who are living in poverty? Include at least one specific example of an individual’s experience of living in poverty from the documentary.
- 2) How do you think that living in poverty impacts health?
- 3) What did you learn by completing this activity that you could use in your future practice in healthcare?
- 4) What can providers do to assist those who live below the poverty line in improving their health?

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Online Training Modules & Quiz (10 Possible Points)

Each student will complete an online SBIRT training module (this is located under “SBIRT Training Modules” on the Blackboard page). You will complete a 5-question quiz over this training after you view the modules.

Presentation over an Assigned Mental Health Disorder (20 Possible Points)

Students will be assigned a mental health disorder topic. You will be responsible for providing a 15-minute presentation on your assigned topic to your classmates via Zoom on the assigned date in your clinical schedule. Specific guidelines for the presentation and grading are posted on Blackboard under the “content” tab.

Academic Dishonesty:

A score of zero will be applied to an assignment or quiz for which academic dishonesty is suspected. In addition, the faculty may give the student a grade of “F” in the course. Academic dishonesty encompasses a wide variety of behaviors that include but are not limited to copying assignments from other students, completing quizzes with other students, and plagiarism/incorrect citations in written work. Any behavior indicative of academic dishonesty will be addressed in a conference with the student and faculty and will be documented in the student’s permanent academic record with a Professional Misconduct Warning. Students should review the SON Handbook for details on Professional Misconduct Warnings.

Student Disability Services: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, room 1074 of the Student Success Center. The phone number is 270-745-5004, or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu . Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Sexual Harassment Policy:

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU’s Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf. Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. Disclosure to University faculty or instructors of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination is not confidential under Title IX (this includes any information you share in written assignments). Faculty and instructors must forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to Deborah T. Wilkins, Title IX Coordinator, Downing Student Union, Suite 2096, 270-745-5396 deborah.wilkins@wku.edu. Additional information may be found at <https://www.wku.edu/titleix/> Students may seek assistance and/or speak confidentially with the staff of the WKU Counseling Center 270-745-3159.

Blackboard/Email:

Handouts and other materials will be posted for students on Blackboard. Each student is responsible for checking blackboard on a regular basis.

Students are responsible for checking their WKU email account on a regular basis.