

# NURS 126- Nursing Care of Special Populations I: Geriatric and Psychiatric Nursing

## Course Description

**NURS 126: Nursing Care of Special Populations I** Introduces concepts related to mental health and illness across the lifespan as well as the unique physiologic and psychosocial needs of the older adult. Healthy aging of the older adult patient is emphasized. **PREREQUISITE(S): NURS 113, NURS 114, NURS 121. PRE-or OREQUISITE(S): A grade of C or better in mathematics foundation, PSYC 100 and BIOL 212.** *Two hours lecture, twelve hours of clinical each week.*

4 semester hours

## Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Access and use current research evidence to promote clinical reasoning for the special care needs of adult and geriatric populations with alterations in biopsychosocial functioning.
2. Adhere to the legal/ethical responsibilities of the student nurse when providing care to the geriatric/psychiatric populations.
3. Identify legal issues involved in providing care to patients with alterations in mental health in the adult and geriatric populations.
4. Correlate performance of nursing techniques with desired physiologic and psychological outcomes.
5. Recognize Geriatric syndromes and chronic conditions, including atypical presentations.
6. Advocate during acute exacerbations of chronic conditions to prevent further complications.
7. Maintain maximum function and independence in the psychiatric, adult and geriatric populations.
8. Analyze risk and benefits of care decisions in collaboration with the interdisciplinary team, patient, family and caregiver.
9. Interpret findings and evaluate clinical situations in order to provide high quality nursing care based on current knowledge and best practices to psychiatric and geriatric populations.
10. Assess, respond to, and respect the functional status, strengths, wishes, culture and expectations of adult and geriatric populations.
11. Apply the principles of therapeutic communication across the life cycle.
12. Facilitate interdisciplinary communication for transitioning adult and geriatric populations.
13. Use technology to enhance the functioning, independence and safety of psychiatric, adult and geriatric populations.

14. Specify the unique nursing responsibilities in administration of medications to psychiatric, adult and geriatric populations.
15. Assess and provide nursing care to promote safety based on the biopsychosocial vulnerabilities and care needs of psychiatric, adult and geriatric populations.

**Program Outcomes**

1. Maintain legal, ethical, evidence-based, and professional standards of nursing
2. Utilize clinical reasoning in practice
3. Practice patient-centered care
4. Demonstrate teamwork and collaboration
5. Effectively use current technology and informatics
6. Ensure a safe environment for patient, self, and others

**Process for Determining Grade**

<b>Exams</b>	<b>Points</b>
Exam 1	50
Exam 2	50
Exam 3	50
Final	70
<b>Total exam points possible.</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>Total exam points needed for 75%</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Total points for the course</b>	<b>248</b>

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Points</b>
Older Adult Interview	5
PNAT	6
ATI Pre-Exam Practice Assessment	3
ATI Proctored Assessment Remediation	5
Pre-Class Assignments (ALTs)	9
<b>Total assignment points possible.</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total assignment points needed for 75%</b>	<b>21</b>