Independent Study Refresher Course for Registered Nurses

Program Overview

Introduction
The goal of the RN Refresher Course is to assist inactive registered nurses to return to the nursing workforce by promoting their professional growth and development.

Purpose
This self-study refresher course was developed to help inactive registered nurses review and update their nursing knowledge and skills, thus allowing them to move with confidence into a nurse orientation program and return to practice. This course is offered over the Internet and may be completed in one's home community at a pace and time which best meets individual needs.

Objectives
The overall objectives of the course are to provide an opportunity for participants to:

- Gain an understanding of current philosophy, objectives, and social and cultural implications of nursing.
- Review and enhance previously acquired nursing skills.
- Demonstrate the role of the registered nurse in assessing clients' needs and in planning individualized care.
- Review and increase knowledge of selected medical and surgical conditions, therapies and procedures, current diagnostic and treatment measures, and patient care needs.

Course Content
This is a flexible, self-paced course of study. Time to complete the course is based upon individual needs and circumstances, but the entire course must be completed within a 12-month period of time from the date of enrollment. All of the modules and virtual skills lab must be successfully completed before beginning the clinical portion of the course.

Date of Program
The program is ongoing. Individuals may enroll at any time.
**Instructional Content**

**Theory**

The theory component is based on a textbook to help direct and reinforce learning. The theory portion has been organized into fourteen major instructional modules (see Appendix A), a medical calculation test and a Virtual Skills Lab. The first module addresses trends and issues in nursing and the remainder are based upon Functional Health Patterns. Functional Health Patterns is a system developed by Marjory Gordon for organizing a nursing assessment based upon function and directs the nurse in collecting data and assessing. After successful completion, RN Refresher participants are awarded 145 theory hours.

**Theory Evaluation and Examination Procedure**

There are fourteen examinations, one for each instructional module, a medical calculation test and a virtual skills lab exam. Students completing the online program have timed examinations which are automatically submitted and graded with immediate feedback on your score. A proctor is not necessary for online exams. If a score of less than 72 percent is attained on Form A of the examination, the participant will be requested to study the module again and complete Form B of the examination. A total of two attempts may be made to obtain a passing score before being dropped from the program.

RN Participants will be required to take a medical calculation Post-Test at the end of Module 2 and obtain a 100% passing score on the test. Participants are allowed three opportunities to pass the medical calculation post-test. Participants who do not obtain a passing score on the medical calculation post-test will be dropped from the program.

**Clinical Component and Evaluation**

**Clinical Site**

Arranging for the clinical experience is the responsibility of each participant. Participants are required to have a verbal commitment from a clinical site prior to enrolling in the course. Acceptable clinical sites include hospitals, nursing homes, surgery centers, urgent cares, rehab centers, home health or hospice agencies (to name a few). Participants are asked to make the initial contact to verify that the facility can provide a clinical experience once the theory portion of the course is completed. As soon as a verbal commitment has been given, students can enroll in the course. SDSU staff will follow up by contacting the clinical site to provide additional information about the course and to establish an affiliation agreement.
requires 160 clinical hours; KS requires 180 clinical hours (110 of those hours in an acute setting). NE requires 30 clinical hours; however, a minimum of 80 clinical hours must be completed in order to pass this course. Participants must submit a Clinical Plan to SDSU prior to beginning the clinical experience and allow two weeks for processing the paperwork. All necessary components for clinical (two background checks, negative 10-panel drug screening, immunizations, CPR certification for professional rescuers, proof of malpractice insurance), and limited licensure (where applicable) MUST be submitted BEFORE beginning the clinical experience. Information and instructions to complete each requirement will be provided in the enrollment packet. Castle Branch is the source to submit these clinical requirements to and has been endorsed by the AACN – American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The package price for Castle Branch is $210.50. This is an additional cost and should be paid to Castle Branch upon preparation for clinical. The accepted credit cards are VISA or MasterCard.

The clinical experience will be evaluated by the clinical supervisor according to the criteria included in the course materials. Upon completion of the clinical experience, the completed Verification of Practice Standards evaluation tool is to be returned via US mail to SDSU, the course provider. The refresher course participant will also be required to submit a one-page summary of the clinical experience.

Certificate of Completion of the Program
A certificate of completion will be awarded to participants upon successful completion of both the theory and clinical components of the course.

Licensure
A limited license must be obtained from the State Board of Nursing (where required) during the clinical component of the refresher course and allows nursing practice only under the direct personal supervision of a licensed registered nurse identified as your clinical supervisor, and may not be used for gainful employment. The limited license is only valid for a specific period of time. Therefore, plan carefully regarding completion of clinical hours. For example, the limited license in South Dakota is only valid for 90 days.

Course Approval
This course has been approved by a number of State Boards of Nursing to meet refresher course requirements for re-licensure as a registered nurse. It is the responsibility of each participant to ascertain whether the program is certified in his or her state and the exact requirements of the state. Theory hours and clinical hours may vary for each state.
**Cost**

The enrollment fee for the Independent Study Refresher course for RNs is $900.00. This fee includes:

- Supervision and coordination of the course
- Correction of exams
- Record keeping
- Consultation to course participants
- Postage and handling
- Certificate of completion

The accepted credit cards are MasterCard, VISA, American Express, and Discover.

**Textbook**

Participants will need to purchase the textbook "*Fundamentals of Nursing* Human Health and Function (7th edition) by Craven, Hirnle, and Jensen. The textbook may be purchased locally or by contacting the University Bookstore ([www.sdstatebookstore.com](http://www.sdstatebookstore.com)). This is an additional cost.

**WEB Browser**

Participants need to make sure their browser is properly configured to use the Desire2Learn (D2L) system. The following checks ensure that the browser is properly configured to use the system.

- JavaScript
- Cookies enabled
- Adobe Flash plug-in
- Screen resolution recommendation -- 1024 by 768 pixels
- Rich content editing
  A desktop or laptop computer is recommended when taking exams. iPads, iPhones, Tablets, etc. are discouraged.

**Completion Timeframe**

This course is self-paced. Once enrolled in the RN Independent Study Course, participants have one year to complete the course. If the course is not completed within the one-year deadline, participants may re-enroll in the course for an additional $250.00. This renewal fee is only good for a three-month extension. Re-enrollment after this time period will require an entire fee payment again.
Withdrawal Procedures
If you receive course materials and decide not to complete the course, you have 30 days from the date of enrollment to return your course materials to receive a refund of 85% of the fees of the course. After 30 days, you will not receive any refund.

Faculty
Gloria Craig, EdD, RN, is responsible for the online delivery and the coordination and management of the instruction and evaluation of the RN Refresher Course.

Course Completion
In order to complete this refresher course, participants must successfully pass both the theory and clinical components. Upon successful completion of the refresher course, participants will be sent a certificate. A copy of the certificate will be sent to the participant’s Board of Nursing to document successful completion of the course.

Any participant who does not successfully complete the theory component will not be permitted to begin the clinical component of the refresher course. If a participant is unable to successfully complete the clinical portion, this will result in failure of the refresher course. Appeals to have the opportunity to retake clinicals are not guaranteed and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. No student will be allowed more than two opportunities to successfully complete clinicals.

Conflict Resolution
Students who have concerns about the RN Refresher Course or the College of Nursing’s policies and procedures should use the following path to resolve questions and conflicts.

- Discuss the issue with the person directly related to the issue.
- The sequence to follow is: Program Assistant > Course Coordinator > Assistant to the Dean > Dean

How to Enroll
If you wish to enroll in this course, please complete and print the application form. **DO NOT email your application with credit card information.** You may fax your application with credit card information and include verification of past or present licensure to (605) 688-6679 or mail your application with check or money order to the following address:
Independent Study Refresher Course
South Dakota State University
College of Nursing, CNE
Box 2275, SWG 207
Brookings, SD 57007-0098

Please contact the Continuing Nursing Education program assistant with any questions by calling 605-688-5745, or by email: linda.lemme@sdstate.edu.
Appendix A

Module I Nursing Today: Issues, Concerns and Challenges
   Unit I Issues, Trends and Challenges
   Unit II Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing Today
   Unit III Cultural Diversity

Module II Pharmacology Review
   Unit I Nursing and Drug Therapy
   Unit II Dosage Calculations
   Unit III Overview of Pharmacotherapeutic Agents

Module III Caring for the Patient with an Alteration in the Health Perception/Health Management pattern
   Unit I Health Perception and Maintenance

Module IV Caring for the Patient with an Alteration in the Activity-Exercise pattern
   Unit I Factors that Affect Mobility
   Unit II Pathophysiology of Altered Mobility and Inactivity
   Unit III Effects of Altered Mobility on the Activities of Daily Living
   Unit IV Safety in the Home and Healthcare Environment

Module V Caring for the Patient with an Alteration in the Nutrition-Metabolic pattern
   Unit I Maintaining Fluid-Electrolyte and Acid-Base Homeostasis
   Unit II Nutrition
   Unit III Skin Integrity and Wound Healing
   Unit IV Asepsis and Infection Control
   Unit V Infection Prevention and Management

Module VI Caring for the Patient with an Alteration in the Elimination Pattern
   Unit I Bowel Elimination
   Unit II Bladder Elimination

Module VII Caring for the Patient with an Alteration in the Sleep-Rest pattern

Module VIII Caring for the Patient with an Alteration in the Cognitive-Perceptual Pattern
   Unit I Alteration in Comfort
   Unit II Altered Thought Process

Module IX Caring for the Patient with an Alteration in the Self-Perception/Self-Concept Pattern

Module X Caring for the Patient with an Alteration in the Role-Relationship Pattern

Module XI Caring for the Patient with an Alteration in the Coping-Stress Pattern

Module XII Caring for the Patient with an Alteration in the Sexuality-Reproductive Pattern

Module XIII Caring for the Patient with an Alteration in the Value-Belief Pattern
Module XIV  Health Assessment
Unit A: Assessment Skills
Unit B: General Physical Survey
Unit C: Head to Toe Assessment

Virtual Skills Lab