

## **Course Description**

### **NSG0081 | Concepts of Geriatrics and Pharmacology in Nursing | 3.4 credits**

In this course, students will explore culturally centered client care, the impact of human growth and development on the nursing care of the older adult client and apply principles of pharmacology to evaluate the appropriateness of medications and treatments ordered for the older adult. Students will integrate the nursing process, clinical judgment, and safety for the novice professional nurse.

### **Course Competencies:**

**Competency 1:** The student will acquire a comprehensive understanding of the unique healthcare needs of elderly patients and develop specialized skills to provide geriatric care by:

1. Developing a deep understanding of the physiological and psychological changes associated with aging by analyzing, comparing, and contrasting the unique healthcare needs of elderly patients with those of other age groups
2. Acquiring specialized skills in geriatric care by participating in clinical rotations, simulations, and case studies focused on geriatric nursing, including assessing mobility, cognitive function, and activities of daily living in older adults
3. Enhancing empathy and patient-centered care through engaging in reflective practices, role-playing exercises, and interpersonal skills development activities tailored to the specific needs and preferences of elderly patients

**Competency 2:** The student will explore the principles of pharmacology and medication management specifically related to geriatric patients, including the assessment, administration, and monitoring of medications by:

1. Gaining a comprehensive understanding of the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of medications in geriatric patients by evaluating, interpreting, and applying principles of pharmacology to the unique physiological changes and medication responses in older adults
2. Acquiring proficiency in medication management for older adults by practicing safe medication administration, dosage calculations, and adverse effect monitoring through hands-on training and supervised clinical experiences
3. Developing evidence-based medication management strategies tailored to the geriatric population by researching, analyzing, and evaluating best practices in medication assessment, administration, and monitoring for older adults

**Competency 3:** The student will gain knowledge of common health conditions and diseases prevalent in the geriatric population and learn evidence-based strategies for their prevention, management, and treatment by:

1. Acquiring in-depth knowledge of prevalent health conditions in the geriatric population by identifying, researching, and presenting evidence-based information on common diseases and health issues affecting elderly patients
2. Developing proficiency in the prevention, management, and treatment of geriatric health conditions by collaborating with healthcare professionals, conducting case studies, and formulating comprehensive care plans tailored to the specific needs of older patients
3. Enhancing critical thinking skills by evaluating, synthesizing, and applying evidence-based strategies for preventing and treating geriatric health conditions in simulated patient care scenarios and clinical practice

**Competency 4:** The student will develop an understanding of the psychosocial aspects of caring for older adults and the importance of promoting their overall well-being by:

1. Analyzing the psychosocial needs of older adults by engaging in discussions, role-playing activities, and case studies that explore the impact of social, cultural, and psychological factors on the well-being of elderly patients

2. Developing skills in promoting holistic well-being for older adults by designing, implementing, and evaluating psychosocial interventions and support programs that address the emotional, social, and mental health needs of elderly patients
3. Enhancing empathy and communication skills through activities promoting active listening, empathetic engagement, and culturally sensitive interactions with elderly patients and their families

**Competency 5:** The student will enhance the critical thinking skills necessary to adapt nursing interventions to the specific needs of older patients by:

1. Analyzing patient assessments to identify the specific needs and preferences of older adults ensures that nursing interventions are personalized and effective
2. Evaluating the effectiveness of nursing interventions through continuous observation and feedback, allowing for adjustments that meet the dynamic needs of older patients
3. Integrating evidence-based practices into nursing care plans fosters a holistic approach that addresses the physical and emotional well-being of older patients

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society