

**CEDAR CREST COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING  
NURSING 342 – INDEPENDENT PRACTICUM**

**COURSE SYLLABUS  
Spring 2009**

<b>Title:</b>	N-342 Independent Practicum	
<b>Credit:</b>	1.5 credits class	21 hours
	2.5 credits clinical	105 hours
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Cumulative Nursing GPA of 2.5 Satisfactory completion of all pre-requisites	
<b>Placement:</b>	Senior Level, Final Semester	

**Course Description:**

This course is the culminating clinical course in the curriculum. Students develop increasing levels of autonomy in providing clinical patient care in a variety of diverse settings. Under faculty supervision, students work directly with unit based nurse preceptors to provide nursing care to medically complex and culturally diverse patients. Transition to becoming a professional nurse is addressed through concentrated preparation for success with the NCLEX licensure exam, in depth immersion in the Professional Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics and application of Benner's conceptual framework of movement from novice to expert practice within the nursing profession.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon the completion of the course the student will:

1. Incorporate knowledge from the physical, social sciences, humanities, and nursing in making nursing practice decisions involving individuals, families, and communities.
2. Communicate effectively in promoting the optimal health of individuals, families and communities.
3. Demonstrate competence in the use of the nursing process to promote optimal health for individuals, families, and communities.
4. Coordinate health care delivery with the multi-disciplinary healthcare team.
5. Incorporate research findings into practice and the delivery of health care.
6. Practice principles of leadership, advocacy, and teaching in specific clinical settings.
7. Develop goals for personal and professional development.

**Time Allocation:** 4 hours of class weekly with additional clinical hours

**Faculty:** Amy Edgar RN, MSN  
 Office Phone: 610-606-4666, Ext. 3328  
 Email: [ahedgar@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:ahedgar@cedarcrest.edu)  
 Office Hours: Tuesday 11am to 1pm, Thursdays 11am to 1pm, by appointment

Joan Timalonis RN, MSN, CNE  
 Office Phone: 610-606-4606, X3489  
 Email: [jttimalo@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:jttimalo@cedarcrest.edu)  
 Office Hours: As posted and open office hours Thursdays 4 to 5 PM

**Teaching Methods:**

Audio-visual materials	Lecture and discussion
Case studies	Computer-assisted instruction
Reflective writing	Problem solving exercises

**Course Evaluation:**

**1. Theoretical Component**

Mini-NCLEX Exams (3)	10%
Journals (3)	15%
Exemplar	10%
Integrative Nursing Paper	25%
Class Presentation	20%
Exemplar Book/Senior Celebration	20%
Practice Licensure Exam	Pass/Fail

---

TOTAL - 100%

## 2. Clinical Component

**Each student is required to complete 105 clinical hours.** Clinical hours can start \_\_\_\_ and end \_\_\_\_\_. Clinical performance will be evaluated as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Midterm and final clinical evaluations must be completed by the preceptor, the nursing clinical faculty and the student. Attendance for clinical is expected and mandatory. In the event of illness, both the preceptor/unit and clinical instructor **must be notified prior** to the clinical experience. Professional behaviors including punctuality are expected and mandatory as well. More than 1 episode of tardiness within the 105 clinical hours will result in failure of the course. In order to successfully complete the course, the student **MUST PASS** the clinical component. An unsatisfactory grade will result in an automatic failure for the course.

### Grading Scale:

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	<60%

A grade below C is not passing. Students must achieve a minimum grade of a 73 in order to receive a C. Grades will be rounded up if the decimal is greater than or equal to .5.

### Honor Code:

Students are reminded to review the Honor Code and Plagiarism statements as found in the Cedar Crest College Customs Handbook. Students found guilty of Honor Code offenses will receive a zero for the assignment in question.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's paper or work under one's own name with or without additions or modifications; downloading and turning in a paper from the internet or including concepts, phrases, sentences, or paragraphs from print or electronic sources whether verbatim or paraphrased in one's own paper without proper attrition.

A paper suspected of intentional plagiarism will receive a grade of zero. Students who submit papers with evidence of academic dishonesty of a more serious nature may receive an “F” for the course at the discretion of the course instructor. Students who turn in work with unintentional plagiarism including overuse of direct citations, inappropriate and inaccurate citations, or omission of citations, will receive a serious deduction of points for critical analysis, paper content, and APA formatting.

All papers are to be the student's original work. Submission of a paper from a previous course or from a previous assignment in this nursing course is unacceptable and will result in a zero.

Dishonesty of any kind throughout this course may result in an “F” in this course.

### **Classroom Protocol:**

#### Friendly Classroom

Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest Honor Code. Such behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations and any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or comprise students’ access to their Cedar Crest College education. If you are more than five minutes late to class, you will not be admitted until the next break.

#### Cumulative Knowledge

The student is reminded that knowledge in nursing is cumulative and that she/he will be held accountable for prior learning. Furthermore, the student is expected to be knowledgeable about anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and health/physical assessment as they relate to material covered in this course. The student is responsible for material discussed in class as well as information covered in the required readings. Copies of journal articles may be placed on reserve in the Cressman Library.

#### Attendance Policy

Class Attendance is required for the successful completion of this course. Small group exercises and seminar presentations require students to come prepared to discuss assigned readings for each class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students are required to contact the professor if they will be late or absent from class. More than one class absence may result in failure of the course.

#### Copy of Student’s Work

Students are required to keep a hard copy of all written work assignments for this course. In the event an assignment is lost, it is the student’s responsibility to provide an additional copy of the written assignment. Failure to provide this copy will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Additionally, students are required to submit an electronic copy of their scholarly paper to the dropbox in eCompanion.

### Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments are due on the designated date. Lateness will be reflected in a lower grade of 10 points per day. Weekend days are counted toward deductions. Assignments submitted after the assigned time on the due date will be considered one day late, and subsequent points will be deducted in 24 hour increments according to the policy. It is the student's responsibility to obtain a stamp from the nursing secretary indicating the date and time the assignment was received. Assignments in question without a stamped date and time will be counted as late. Assignments are not to be slid under the professor's door without a stamp indicating date and time.

### **Description of Course Evaluation:**

#### Assignments

#### **1. Mini-NCLEX Exams: 10%**

There will be a total of four online Mini-NCLEX Exams. The content and amount of questions will vary each week (Medical-Surgical, Maternal Child, Pediatrics and Psychiatric Nursing). The time allotted will vary based on the number of questions. Each student is required to take the exam online during the scheduled time.

#### **2. Journals: 15%**

During the clinical practicum period, on a weekly basis or after 24 hours of time, each student must submit a 1-2 page journal entry to the respective clinical instructor. All submitted journal entries must be typed. Journals should be submitted in a folder to the clinical instructor. Journals must also be submitted in the drop box of the course website with an email to the faculty to alert them the journal is ready to be graded. Journal entries will relate to the student's experience on the clinical unit. For further details, refer to "Guidelines for Clinical Journals". If the first journal is deemed unsatisfactory, there is **one** opportunity to rewrite that journal. A total of 3 journals are required. After the first journal, any unsatisfactory grade will be recorded as a zero.

#### **3. Exemplar: 10%**

Each student will write an exemplar reflective of a past personal clinical experience. The exemplar can be written in the first person. The exemplar is to be typed and handed in during the designated class time. For further details refer to "Guidelines for Exemplars". The content of the exemplar is the student's choice of reflection and includes synthesis of Benner's (2001) work and domains.

#### 4. **Integrative Nursing Paper: 25%**

A final scholarly paper, to integrate the humanities components of the liberal arts with a specific patient/nursing care situation, is required in this course. This paper, no more than 5-7 pages, will describe a patient for whom the student provided care during any of the required nursing courses. (It may helpful to ask yourself—“Who was my most memorable patient? Who was my most challenging patient? Who was my sickest patient? Who was my most difficult patient family? Which patient taught me the most about nursing and myself?”). Once you have chosen the patient, you will need to describe the patient and the situation in detail, as well as the nursing care delivered. To synthesize the humanities components into this paper, you need to select a concept from a particular discipline (i.e. music, painting, drawing, sculpture, fine art, film, drama, architecture, poem) that depicts a holistic view of the selected patient’s situation (i.e. suffering, courage, bravery, stamina). This needs to be described in detail and referenced. Finally, you will need to describe how the selected concept relates to your patient scenario and the care that was provided. This paper must follow APA format. The paper must be submitted electronically in the dropbox and via hardcopy. For further details refer to the “Scholarly Paper Grading Criteria”.

#### 5. **Class Presentation: 20%**

Working in small groups, students will select one of Benner’s Domains to present in class. The domains are: The Helping Role; The Teaching Coaching Function; The Diagnostic Monitoring Function; Effective Management of Rapidly Changing Situations; Administering and Monitoring Therapeutic Interventions and Regimes; Organization and Work-Role Competencies; and Monitoring & Ensuring the Quality of Health Care Practices. Additional topics include Transition to Nursing, Life Long Learning, Reflective Learning for professional development, and Reality Shock. The presentation will be 15-20 minutes in length and will cover the domain and well as examples from each student in regards to how they acted in this domain. The student should lead the discussion and facilitate participation from the class. For further details refer to the “Benner Presentation Grading Criteria”.

#### 6. **Exemplar Book / Senior Celebration Planning Committee: 20%**

Students are required to participate in either of the above selected events:

1. The Senior Celebration, date TBA, will showcase your accomplishments. The committee will have a budget, as designated by the nursing department, and will work with faculty to plan this culminating event. Two exemplars, a senior address and two integrative nursing papers will be chosen and presented as part of the program.
2. The Exemplar Committee will coordinate all aspects of your exemplar book. The exemplars are to be collected, bound and will be presented to you and your families at graduation. The following areas must be adhered to: **Proofing:** To be completed first by the student committee, then by the N342 professors by 4-30-09.

**Editing:** Please be sure all names/places have been changed. **Formatting:** Font style and size are consistent throughout the book. Margins and spacing are consistent. References are correct and all quotations are accurate. **Final Approval by Faculty:** N342 faculty must sign off of the exemplar book before it is submitted to the Nursing Office for final revisions and sent to print services. **Cost:** Basic cost of printing is covered by department.

Your grade in these projects will depend on your participation in the subcommittee. Minutes of the committees are expected to be completed and shared with all class members and faculty. Your peers will evaluate your participation level.

## 7. **Practice Licensure Exam: Pass-Fail**

You will be required to take a proctored version of the simulated registered nurse licensure exam. The RN Comprehensive Predictor is a proctored assessment designed for administration at the completion of program coursework in nursing. It is designed to assess your comprehensive knowledge base prior to graduation. Performance on this is 96% predictive of outcomes of the NCLEX-RN. It is expected that students will demonstrate a mastery of concepts **at or above Proficiency Level 2** on the Individual Score. Students who **do not** demonstrate a mastery of concepts at or above Proficiency Level 2 will be required to remediate which includes writing a remediation plan, meeting with N342 nursing faculty, taking additional practice questions and then taking an additional proctored exam, of which the passing score will be Proficiency Level 2. Students are required to re-take the proctored assessment until they achieve Proficiency Level 2 in order to pass NUR 342. Any student who is unable to pass the Comprehensive Predictor at Proficiency Level 2 after repeating the exam 3 times, will receive the grade of F for NUR 342 and will be required to repeat the course.

It is important that you take this assessment very seriously. We are dedicated to your success in the licensure exam.

## **Description of Clinical Requirements**

### **1. Clinical Student Performance**

Clinical performance will be evaluated as satisfactory and unsatisfactory. On a daily basis, the student's clinical performance will be verbally evaluated by the respective clinical preceptor. Evaluation criteria are based on the care provided and satisfactory completion of clinical course objectives. At the midway point and at completion of the rotation, the clinical evaluation form is to be completed by the preceptor and reviewed with the student and N342 faculty. On the final evaluation, the student must receive a satisfactory rating for EACH clinical objective to pass the clinical requirements for the course. (Refer to the N342-Clinical Evaluation Tool for detailed performance ratings.) The student must pass both the clinical and theoretical components to successfully pass N342.

## 2. Attendance

Attendance for clinical is **mandatory** and necessary to complete the course objectives. Students who are absent run the risk of failing the clinical portion of the course. You are expected to stay at the clinical site for the entire time scheduled unless specifically asked to leave by the preceptor. If this occurs, it is expected to be reported to the clinical faculty. Failure to notify the clinical faculty of an early departure or change in the clinical schedule may result in an unsatisfactory clinical day and evaluation. Transportation to clinical is the student's responsibility. **More than 2 episodes of absence will result in a clinical failure for NUR 342.**

## 3. Lateness

It is expected that you will arrive at the clinical site at the scheduled time. If you realize that you will be late because of some unavoidable circumstance, you must call the clinical agency and inform the appropriate contact person of the delay and the expected arrival time. You will then call the clinical instructor to inform of the delay. Failure to notify the instructor and the agency PRIOR to arrival at the clinical site will affect your ability to meet the course objectives and will result in a clinical failure for the day. **More than 2 episodes of tardiness will result in a clinical failure for NUR 342.**

## 4. Illness/Absence

In the event of an illness, the clinical instructor must be notified by telephone prior to the clinical experience. It is expected that you will speak to the clinical instructor and not just leave a voice mail. It is also your responsibility to notify the clinical agency of the absence. If the student is ill a second day, a physician's note is required for illness. In this case, the student may not resume clinical experiences unless cleared by his/her physician in writing. Please see Nursing Student Handbook Guidelines regarding the clinical clearance process.

## 5. Make-up Time

Students who miss clinical will be expected to make up the time. Rescheduling will be at the discretion and approval of the instructor and preceptor. Initiation of make-up work and submission of missed journals are the responsibility of the student. Students who fail to complete the clinical portion of this course will be unable to meet course objectives and will result in a clinical failure. Any clinical make up time that requires additional faculty time will be charged at the rate of \$250.00 per 8 hour day.



## 6. Dress Code

Required student attire consists of a Cedar Crest student nurse uniform with name pin. CLEAN white shoes and hose, watch with second hand, scissors, hemostat, stethoscope, and black pen. Students may wear a sweater or lab coat **when not in direct contact with patients**. Hair that touches the shoulders must be secured with a barrette or in another suitable fashion. Books and notebooks are not permitted in patient rooms. **If necessary, when obtaining clinical assignments, students are required to wear a lab coat with name pin over street clothes. Students must dress professionally. Blue jeans are not suitable attire!** Students may examine the Medication Administration Records when preparing for their clinical assignment, but are not to open the medication carts and examine the patient's medications at any time.

## 7. Hospital Regulations

The hospital is not responsible for personal belongings taken to the unit. Parking information will be discussed in orientation.

## 8. Professional Behavior

You are expected to demonstrate professional behavior throughout the clinical rotation. This applies to ALL clinical experiences. Professionalism is demonstrated, in part, by: 1) Contacting the clinical faculty to make any needed schedule changes. Scheduling is not the responsibility of the preceptor; 2) following appropriate lines of communication; 3) displaying a calm, even temperament under stressful times; 4) maintaining self-control in all clinical situations; 5) interacting effectively with peers, co-workers, and superiors; 6) promoting relationships of trust and respect; and 7) dressing in an appropriate, professional manner.

### Required Textbooks:

Benner, P. (2001) From novice to expert: *Excellence and power in clinical nursing practice*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall Health.

Saxton, D., Nugent, P., & Pelikan, P. (2007). *Mosby's comprehensive review of nursing for NCLEX-RN*. (18<sup>th</sup>, Ed) St. Louis: Mosby.

### **Guidelines for Clinical Journals**

The Clinical Journal should provide an overview of the student's clinical activities and objectives for the designated time period. Prior to starting the practicum experience, the student should develop 3-5 clinical objectives and 3-5 personal development goals. All goals must be approved by the preceptor and clinical faculty. Each journal should be approximately 2-3 pages in length and follow an outline format. All information contained under each heading must be submitted in sentence form and contain the following information:

- 1) Provide evidence of how you are meeting EACH clinical objective;
- 2) Describe how you met at least three of the seven roles (communicator, leader, learner, advocate, collaborator, teacher, and researcher) of the professional nurse;
- 3) Describe how you met your personal development goals.

## Guidelines for Exemplars

Each student will write one exemplar reflective of personal past clinical experiences. **An exemplar is a situation where, in your opinion, your intervention really made a difference in a patient's care and outcome. It is a clinical situation that stands out as the "quintessence of nursing" -- the extraordinary things that nurses do in what we call ordinary, everyday practice.** An exemplar is written as a narrative or story, not a case study or report. It can be written in the first person and should be cited appropriately. It should be no longer than two pages and should include your intentions, thoughts, and concerns as the situation unfolded.

The content of the exemplar is the student's choice of reflection and includes synthesis of Benner's (2001) work and domains such as: The Helping Role; The Teaching Coaching Function; The Diagnostic Monitoring Function; Effective Management of Rapidly Changing Situations; etc.

Your exemplar should be a description of a patient care situation where you feel you made a difference in the care of the patient. The situation should be described in detail and include such things as when it occurred, the context of the situation (shift, time of day, unit), a detailed description of what happened including as much dialogue as possible, why the situation is memorable to you, your concerns at the time, your thinking as it unfolded and its outcome should also be elaborated. One of Benner's domains should then be synthesized in relation to the described experience. The exemplar is worth 25 points and 10% of your final grade.

### Exemplar's Grading Criteria:

- 1) Description of the situation - 10 points
- 2) How you made a difference and relationship to the chosen domain – 10 points
- 3) Grammar, spelling, sentence structure and flow - 5 points

Nursing Department  
N342 Cedar Crest College – Independent Practicum

### **BENNER PRESENTATION GRADING CRITERIA**

<b>Grading Criteria</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Points Received</b>
<b>1. Content of the Material</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clearly describes the domain</li> <li>▪ Presentation is creative</li> <li>▪ Significance to nursing practice.</li> </ul>	20	
<b>2. Examples related to Benner’s Domain</b>	20	
<b>3. Facilitates Class Participation</b>	20	
<b>4. Presentation Style</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Eye contact &amp; voice projection</li> <li>▪ Spoke and did not read to audience</li> <li>▪ Professional attire &amp; appearance</li> </ul>	20	
<b>5. Creativity and Use of Time</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintained time allotment</li> <li>▪ Handouts (optional)</li> <li>▪ PowerPoint with professional appearance</li> </ul>	20	

**Submit this Rubric with Presentation**

**TOTAL POINTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Nursing Department  
N342 Cedar Crest College – Independent Practicum

### SCHOLARLY PAPER GRADING CRITERIA

Grading Criteria	Points Possible	Points Received
<b>1. Content of the Material</b>	<b>75</b>	
<b>A. Description of Patient, Situation and Care:</b> Clearly describes the patient and situation, why the scenario was selected; and details, with rationale, the care that was delivered.	(25)	
<b>B. Selection of the Liberal Arts Concept:</b> Liberal arts concept is described in detail with appropriate references.	(25)	
<b>C. Critical Analysis:</b> Clearly and concisely Describes how the liberal arts concept relates to the patient scenario and care.	(25)	
<b>2. Organization of Material:</b> Introduction and Conclusion present; paragraphs flow; professional word choice; correct grammar, accurate spelling	<b>15</b>	
<b>3. Adherence to APA Format</b> One point deduction for each unique error	<b>10</b>	

**Submit this Rubric with Paper**

**TOTAL POINTS:** \_\_\_\_\_