

**Course Title:** NUR 558: Evidence-based Nursing Practice: Preparation

**Course Credits:** 3

**Course Prerequisites:** NUR 510, NUR 512, NUR 514, NUR 516, NUR 520, NUR 522, NUR 525, NUR 531 or NUR 541

**Course Co-Requisites:** NUR 533 or NUR 543

**Course Description:**

Students will build on the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the Master of Science in Nursing curriculum to develop an innovative evidence-based practice project to address an answerable clinical question. The purpose of this culminating project is to prepare nurse leaders for designing and implementing evidence-based practice initiatives for purposes of healthcare policy and practice in diverse health care settings across the continuum of care. The student will examine the interaction of theory, research, and clinical expertise in the development of evidence-based nursing practice. The student will develop the skills necessary to delineate their individual clinical question, integrate critically appraised extant knowledge, and design a document that transforms empirically developed information for use in nursing practice.

**Course Format:** Lecture, discussion, guest speakers, presentations, web-enhanced assignments.

**Course Objectives:**

The objectives of this course are to:

1. Define, articulate and apply principles of EBP within a specialty focus.
2. Formulate well-structured answerable questions about practice and policy decisions.
3. Conduct efficient and effective searches for systematically locating relevant evidence from multiple sources.
4. Critically appraise and analyze evidence for validity, relevance, and applicability.
5. Synthesize and integrate best evidence (primary research, evidence summaries, clinical expertise) into recommendations for use in nursing practice.

**Course Outcomes**

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

1. Critically evaluate relevant knowledge for its application and contribution to nursing practice.
2. Begin to develop a proposal for an innovative project, consistent with EBP principles and criteria, designed to contribute to nursing science.

### **Required Textbooks:**

Malloch, K. & Porter-O'Grady, T. (2010). *Introduction to evidence-based practice in nursing and health care*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Sudbury, Massachusetts: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Melnyk, B. M., & Fineout-Overholt, E. (2005). *Evidence-based practice in nursing & healthcare: A guide to best practice*. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Polit, D. F., & Beck, C. T. (2008). *Nursing research: Generating and assessing evidence for nursing practice* (8th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

**Required Readings:** Available in Document Sharing

**Time Allocation:** 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, Wednesday evenings

**Faculty:** Mae Ann Pasquale, PhD(c), RN  
Office Phone: 610-606-4666 Ext. 3624  
E-mail: [mpasqual@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:mpasqual@cedarcrest.edu)  
Office hours: HBB #20.  
Before class or by appointment.  
Most easily reached by email.

### **Teaching/Learning Strategies:**

This course will utilize a variety of teaching and learning strategies including lecture, discussion and web-enhanced assignments but will also use small workgroups.

### **Course Assessment: Based on 100 points total**

1.	EBP Project: Chapter 1	20 points (15%)
2.	EBP Project: Chapter 2	20 points (15%)
3.	EBP Project: Revised Chapter 1 & 2	20 points (20%)
4.	Oral EBP Project Presentation	20 points (30%)
5.	EBP Model/Database Presentation	10 points (10%)
6.	Active Participation in All Class Presentations	10 points (20%)
<hr/>		100 points (100%)

Assignment Rubrics for the EBP Project, Oral EBP Presentation and the EBP Model/Database Presentation are available under the Rubrics doc sharing tab of eCollege.

### **Grading Scale with Quality Points**

The following grading scale, used in other courses at Cedar Crest College, will be applied in this course. Grades will not be rounded for projects, papers, etc., however, the final grade will be rounded.

A	93-100	= 4.0	quality points
A-	90-92	= 3.7	quality points
B+	87-89	= 3.3	quality points
B	83-86	= 3.0	quality points
B-	80-82	= 2.7	quality points
C+	77-79	= 2.3	quality points
C	73- 76	= 2.0	quality points
C-	70-72	= 1.7	quality points
D+	67-69	= 1.3	quality points
D	60-66	= 1.0	quality points
F	below 60	= 0	quality points

### **Attendance**

It is the student's responsibility to participate in his/her learning by attending class and contributing to class discussion and to the group work. If you are unable to attend a regularly scheduled class please notify the professor in advance (by email or phone) that you will be absent. It will be your responsibility to ask a colleague to share information for any class material you miss if you are unable to attend a class session. Absences will be deducted as points from your participation grade.

### **Late Assignments**

All assignments and presentations are due on the date noted in the course schedule. Work will not be accepted late without prior approval. Papers submitted late will receive a deduction of 10 points per day, increasing by 10 points every 24-hour period after the due date.

Both the electronic copy and the hard copy must be submitted on time. If one is late, 10 points will be deducted according to the policy. Do not wait until the last minute to post your electronic copy. Plan appropriately and allow for enough time to submit prior to the due time.

Email copies of assignments will not be accepted. The paper is to be submitted according to the explicit submission policy provided.

If there are extenuating circumstances, these must be brought to the attention of the professor prior to the due date.

### **General Paper Submission Process**

□

All papers are due on the date/time as posted in the pacing schedule by the professor. Submit one copy of the paper to the assignment drop box in eCollege. This copy must be posted prior to the paper due date/time. Submit one hard copy of the paper in a folder to the professor. Include a cover page and copy of the grading rubric available from eCollege. All of the above is to be handed in together in a folder/envelope.

### **Available Resources**

Academic Advising services are available for students who request assistance with scholarly papers. Please confirm their hours of operation and allow ample time for an appointment.

An APA tutor is available through Academic Advising Services for the sole purpose of APA formatting questions. Please contact the Academic Advising Office for instructions on contacting the tutor. Allow ample time for an appointment.

### **Honor Philosophy**

The Cedar Crest College Honor Philosophy states that students should uphold community standards for academic and social behavior in order to preserve a learning environment dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Upholding community standards is a matter of personal integrity and honor. Individuals who accept the honor or membership in the Cedar Crest College community of scholars pledge to accept responsibility for their actions in all academic and social situations and for the effect their actions may have on other members of the College community.

### **Community Standards for Academic Conduct**

Academic integrity and ethics remain steadfast, withstanding technological change. Cedar Crest College academic standards therefore apply to all academic work, including, but not limited to, handwritten or computer-generated documents, video or audio recordings, and telecommunications.

As a student at Cedar Crest College, each student shall:

- Only submit work which is his/her own.
- Adhere to the rules of acknowledging outside sources, as defined by the instructor, never plagiarizing or misrepresenting intellectual property.
- Neither seek nor receive aid from another student, converse with one another when inappropriate, nor use materials not authorized by the instructor.
- Follow the instructions of the professor in any academic situation or environment, including taking of examinations, laboratory procedures, the preparation of papers, properly and respectfully using College facilities and resources, including library and

computing resources, to ensure that these resources may be effectively shared by all members of the College community.

- Abide by the Cedar Crest Computer Use Policy.
- If a student witnesses a violation of the Academic Standards, he/she will go to their instructor.
- If you are unable to resolve the problem with the instructor, you should go to the chair of the department. If you need further assistance after consultation with the instructor and the chair, you should see the Provost.

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 failing grade in this course. Dishonesty constitutes a failing grade in this course.

**Plagiarism** is the presentation of someone else's ideas or language as one's own. Examples of plagiarism include turning in someone else's paper or lab report 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 attribution. As well, all papers are to be the student's original work. Submission of a paper from a previous course is unacceptable and will result in a zero. Unintentional plagiarism and accidental improper citation of sources according to APA is considered plagiarism.

All students are encouraged to review the reference material related to plagiarism located in the webliography of eCollege, as well as seek assistance from the professor, APA tutor and the Academic Advising Center with any questions about plagiarism and correct citation within APA. Ignorance of APA citation rules and unintentional plagiarism will not be accepted as a defense for plagiarized work.

Students who are involved in a group project or paper are responsible for all materials related to the project or paper. Students are to proofread the entire contents of the paper and correct any errors related to citations or plagiarism. If the paper is demonstrated to be plagiarized, all students will receive the same consequence, not just the student whose work it is. Understand that all students are responsible for any group project work or group paper as a representation of their work.

The penalty for plagiarism in this course is a zero in the assignment; however, the professor reserves the right to impose a harsher penalty.

### **Prior Knowledge**

The student is reminded that knowledge in nursing is cumulative and that she/he will be held accountable for prior learning. The student is responsible for material discussed in class as well as information covered in the required readings.

### **Classroom Protocol**

Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest College 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 other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students' access to their Cedar Crest education. Cell phones and pagers are to be placed on silence during class and are not to be answered while in the classroom. Cell phone disruptions are viewed as a violation of courteous and respectful classroom protocol. Sidebar conversations are disruptive to all students and will not be tolerated. Students who arrive late during a guest speaker will not be permitted to enter the room until a break, or until the lecturer has completed the presentation.

### **Disability Accommodation**

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with their professors during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact Academic Services.