

# SYLLABUS FOR PERSONAL VOCATIONAL CONCEPTS

**Prerequisite:** None  
**Credit Hours:** 41

**Placement:** Introductory 14 weeks  
**Instructor:** Elaine Boyd, RN, BSN, MA

**Major Objective:** Personal and Vocational Concepts – Upon completion of this course, the student will evaluate the types and functions of health care providers, facilities and agencies; characterize the functions of nursing organizations; outline current moral and ethical health issues; and evaluate nursing history and trends.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to acquaint the student with information for personal as well as vocational growth. The student will gain a working knowledge of communication, legal and ethical issues, cultural and spiritual needs of the patients. Time will be given for personal goal setting, learning styles evaluation, time management studies, and stress management skills. The roles and the responsibilities of the licensed practical nurse, relate in an ethical manner to the patient and other members of the health care team and to acquire beginning communication skills. Group activities will be required. Personal Vocational Concepts provides the foundation for activities in other nursing courses.

## REFERENCES

**Text:** Success in Practical Nursing, 4th Ed. Hill and Howlett, 2001  
**References:** Basic Nursing : Essentials for Practice, by Potter 5ed.

## MAIN OBJECTIVES

The student should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the relationship of the student in interactions between school, health agency, faculty and other students in the educational program.
2. When given a client scenario, the student will clarify functions and responsibilities of the individual health care team members and determine the implications for the client.
3. Investigate the role of the practical nurse in the varied health care settings.
4. Recognize each client as an individual with unique problems and needs and determine how this impacts the care of the client.
5. Modify communication patterns to communicate more effectively .
6. Participate in the student organization, and be aware of the various professional organizations.
7. Design credentials essential for job placement.
8. Describe the history of nursing and current trends and illustrate how historical and current trends impact client care.
9. Evaluate the impact of ethical and legal issues on nursing practice.
10. Create a plan for utilizing public agencies which offer assistance and/or regulate health care standards today.
11. Design a plan for improving his/her study habits.
12. Apply the concepts from Personal Vocational Concepts to future personal and professional growth.
13. Modify communication patterns to improve interpersonal relationships.
14. Formulate individualized plans of care for culturally diverse clients.
15. Determine signs of burn out, co-dependency, chemical dependency, stress, and other personal obstacles.
16. Determine his/her personal strengths and limitations and evaluate the potential impact on client care.
17. Examine organizational skills necessary to provide basic nursing care.
18. Analyze personal areas that could interfere with success in the Practical Nursing program.
19. Formulate a plan for coping with personal stresses and anxiety.

## GRADING

Tests 90%                      Written Work 10%

## **PVC OBJECTIVES**

### **Adult Learner**

*Upon completing the chapter the student will be able to:*

1. Compare the types of learners, classify himself/herself, and evaluate the pros and cons of each type.
2. Examine personal areas of strength that will help ensure success in the practical nursing program.
3. Identify personal areas that could interfere with success in the practical nursing program.
4. Illustrate the three rights of learners.
5. Analyze his/her personal responsibility for learning and active participation in the learning process as learner responsibilities.
6. Evaluate the purpose of evaluation in the practical nursing program.
7. Analyze the benefits of time management for the adult student.
8. Examine the activities of the roles he/she fills in daily life and arrange the list in terms of priority.
9. Analyze scheduling strategies to improve personal management of time.
10. Identify potential losses of time and ways to maximize use of time.
11. Utilize the nursing process to illustrate the process of improving organizational skills.
12. Identify ways to evaluate the success of his/her time management plan.
13. Examine the concept of critical thinking.
14. Compare the three major learning styles and evaluate his/her personal learning style.
15. Analyze techniques that enhance understanding of information needed to be a practical nurse.
16. Evaluate his/her own strengths and limitations with respect to test taking and formulate a plan for improvement if needed.
17. Evaluate the various learning resources available to him/her.
18. Analyze suggested reading/studying methods and evaluate how he/she might incorporate into practice.
19. Compare long and short term goals.
20. Define Parkinson's Law
21. Compare efficiency and effectiveness.
22. Compare formal and informal educational experiences.
23. Identify constitutional guarantees for students.
24. Discuss the purpose of evaluation.
25. Discuss the responsibility of learners.

**PVC OBJECTIVES**  
**Stress and Stress Management**

*At the completion of this lesson, the student should be able to:*

1. Examine the concept of stress.
2. Discuss stress tolerance.
3. Analyze the factors that influence stress responses.
4. Compare the types of coping strategies that might be used.
5. Design a plan for utilizing relaxation techniques to reduce stress
6. Formulate a plan for identifying an individual experiencing anxiety
7. Discuss intervention techniques used in persons with increased anxiety.
8. Compare the different defense mechanisms.
9. Analyze the behavioral reactions to illness.

## **PVC OBJECTIVES**

### **Nursing History and Trends**

*Upon completion of this unit the student will be able to:*

1. Examine the history of nursing and evaluate it's impact on current and future nursing practice.
2. Examine the licensing of the Practical Nurse.
3. Assess the impact that each of the following has had on the evolution of nursing:

Hippocrates	Apollo	Christianity
Phoebe	Dorothea Dix	Semmelweis
Ben Franklin	Sairey Gamp	Florence Nightingale
Clara Barton		
4. Analyze the various nursing organizations and their impact on the nursing field.
5. Describe the 1985 proposal for 2 levels of nursing.
6. Compare the difference in education, roles, responsibilities and licensing of nurses.
7. Identify the dates when the following occurred:
  - The first school of practical nursing was founded
  - Practical nurses were licensed for the first time
  - The image of nursing was at its lowest point
  - RN and LPN roles were differentiated

**PVC OBJECTIVES**  
**Legal Aspects and Nursing Ethics**

1. Evaluate the relationship between legal aspects and nursing ethics.
2. Examine what is meant by the patient's bill of rights.
3. Differentiate between civil action and criminal action.
4. Analyze the purpose of the Nurse Practice Act.
5. Differentiate between mandatory and permissive licensure.
6. Examine how the nursing standard of care has come into being.
7. Evaluate a client scenario and determine the four elements necessary to prove negligence.
8. Compare the three intentional torts.
9. Assess the role of the nurse and potential causes of recurring liability.
10. Explain liability as it applied to the student nurse and instructor.
11. Distinguish between personal values and nursing ethics.
12. Analyze the concept of accountability with respect to nursing care.
13. Evaluate the term "Standard of Care".
14. Investigate the purpose of a Board of Nursing.
15. Examine the following concepts:

civil law  
negligence  
liable  
false imprisonment

criminal law  
malpractice  
assault  
defamation

tort  
slander  
battery

**PVC OBJECTIVES**  
**Cultural and Spiritual Differences**

1. Assess the role of culture in holistic nursing care.
2. Discuss the significance of cultural health beliefs and traditional folk medicine for patients entering the health-care system.
3. Illustrate the implications of race, ethnic group, and culture with respect to nursing care.
4. Assess the role of religion in holistic nursing care.
5. Evaluate the impact of personal religious beliefs or absence of them and how this could influence nursing practice.

**PVC OBJECTIVES**  
**Communication**

1. Examine aspects of critical thinking that are important to the communication process.
2. Analyze challenging situations that require careful communication decision making.
3. Examine the elements of the communication process.
4. Differentiate aspects of verbal and nonverbal communication.
5. Investigate aspects of verbal and nonverbal communication.
6. Evaluate features and expected outcomes of the nurse-client helping relationship.
7. List nursing focus areas within each phase of a therapeutic nurse-client helping relationship.
8. Analyze behaviors and techniques that affect communication.
9. Illustrate the focus of communication within each phase of the nursing process.
10. Examine client health states or responses that contribute to impaired communication needs.