NURS 6431: Evaluation Methods for Health Information Technology

Program Overview
The Nursing Informatics specialization prepares nurses to more effectively utilize information technology to enhance the quality of patient care. This specialization blends nursing science with computer and information science. Coursework focuses on such key areas as information systems, database concepts, and effective project management. Graduates have the knowledge to integrate data, information, and knowledge to support decision-making processes that affect patients and providers.

Course Description
Healthcare policy, including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (2009) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (1996), mandates that electronic documentation systems are secure and effective. In this course, students explore systems security and evaluation methods. Through discussion of real-world practice that includes public health and community-based settings, students evaluate the impact of redesigned workflows to the larger system design and throughout the organization. Students create a plan for system design and system evaluation. Through team projects and individual applications, they build skills and confidence that support collaborative, interdisciplinary system design to improve the effectiveness of care.

Credit & Practicum Hours
Quarter Credit Hours: 5 credits
- Didactic – 4 credits
- Practicum – 1 credit (72 practicum hours)

Practicum Hours: This course requires a minimum of 72 practicum hours.

Course Learning Outcomes
- Evaluate the history of health information technology
- Analyze the influence of the history of health information technology on technology evaluation today
- Critique and select appropriate models for the evaluation of health information technology
- Construct a PICO question to address an information technology implementation project
- Conduct a literature review to identify evidence-based practices for health information technology (HIT) evaluations
- Apply best evidence to the development of an evaluation methodology
- Construct an evaluation plan using evidence-based practices and validated and reliable tools
- Develop an overview of the key stakeholders, decision-making processes, and HIT infrastructure at a Practicum site

MSN Learning Outcomes
At the end of this program, students will be able to:
1. Synthesize organizational/systems leadership for cost-effective specialist nursing practice that contributes to high-quality healthcare delivery, advancement of the nursing profession, and social change.
2. Critique evidence-based literature drawing from diverse theoretical perspectives and pertinent research to guide decision making that demonstrates best practices for specialist nursing practice in a global society.
3. Integratively assess, diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate cost-effective healthcare strategies that reduce health disparities by patient/population advocacy for access to specialist nursing care.
4. Demonstrate ability to effectively communicate using audience-specific oral, written, and information technology for professional delivery of specialist nursing care.
5. Evaluate health needs of diverse populations for necessary teaching/coaching functions based on specialist nursing knowledge to restore/promote health and prevent illness/injury.
6. Exhibit ongoing commitment to professional development and value of nursing theories/ethical principles (altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity, social justice) in accordance with ethically responsible, legally accountable, specialist nursing practice.
7. Implement specialist nursing roles to promote quality improvement of patient-centered care in accordance with professional practice standards that transform health outcomes for diverse populations.