NURS 6540: Advanced Practice Care of Frail Elders

**Course Description**

The frail elderly are a subpopulation characterized by inactivity and weight loss. In this course, students focus on the complex healthcare and management needs of the frail elderly by advanced nurse practitioners in community settings. Students learn to plan, implement, and evaluate therapeutic regimens through the analysis of case studies and the actual care of frail elderly in various settings. Additionally, students examine content related to end-of-life care and caregiver issues to gain the knowledge and sensibilities needed to implement positive change for the quality of life available to this vulnerable population.

**Credit & Practicum Hours**

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 credits
- Didactic – 3 credits
- Practicum – 2 credits

Practicum Hours:
- Students Enrolled Before Spring 2018: This course requires a minimum of 144 practicum hours.
- Students Enrolled After Spring 2018: This course requires a minimum of 160 practicum hours.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- Analyze the assessment and management of disorders for geriatric patients to enhance function and reduce frailty
- Analyze strategies to identify, prevent, and mitigate disorders to enhance geriatric patient function and reduce frailty
- Evaluate the impact of issues related to the care of frail elders
- Analyze the role of advanced practice nurses in the care of geriatric patients
- Analyze issues related to drugs and frail elders
- Apply key terms, concepts, and principles related to frail elders

**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.