



**Nursing Care for Clients with
Acute and Chronic Health Challenges 2
N3630**

Fall 2025

Course Instructor:
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Calendar Description

Changing health needs of clients across the lifespan requires critical thinking, application of individualized care, integration of health assessment, evidence-informed practices, and diverse client support from an interprofessional team. Client safety and client-centered practices using nursing approach form the basis of this course.

Prerequisite(s): *Nursing 2630A/B; Registration in Year 3 of the Western-Fanshawe Collaborative BScN Program or the Compressed Time Frame BScN program.*

Extra Information: *3 lecture hours*

Course weight: *0.50*

Expanded Description

The acute care environment is complex, with the level of acuity in clients admitted to the hospital becoming increasingly complex. Clients and families experience many health conditions that result in the need for emergent healthcare, some related to exacerbation of chronic conditions and others related to changing client health status; these health conditions are influenced by social, physical, and biological determinants of health. Building on program concepts and theories, this course provides opportunities for students to focus on client experiences with illness and how to promote health and healing through the exploration of acute, chronic, and complex health challenges. Students will develop an understanding of how acute illness develops, and how nurses can care for and promote the health of clients, utilizing client-centered care. This will enable students to understand a client's experience of acute illness. This understanding includes insights into what can lead to hospitalization, resources available in managing health challenges, how to contribute to interprofessional teams, and develop leadership skills to promote health and social justice.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Evaluate nursing interventions based on knowledge of client conditions and optimization of health outcomes.
2. Engage in critical reflective thinking that enhances the application of theory to health promotion and nursing care planning.
3. Apply interprofessional concepts when planning client-centered care for clients with complex health challenges.
4. Analyze and organize information relevant to optimizing health outcomes for clients with complex and emergent health challenges.
5. Identify gaps in health care and social systems that compromise health and continuity of care for clients with complex health challenges.
6. Discuss the ethical and professional components related to care of clients with complex health challenges.
7. Explore how nurses engage in clinical leadership to promote health outcomes and improve health systems.

Competencies for entry-level Registered Nurse practice (CNO, 2019) addressed in the course:

Clinician – 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 1.11, 1.12, 1.21, 1.22 & 1.26; **Professional** – 2.2, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8 & 2.9; **Collaborator** – 4.1, 4.3, 4.4 & 4.5; **Leader** – 6.6, 6.7, 6.9 & 6.10; **Advocate** – 7.1, 7.11 & 7.14; **Educator** – 8.3 **Scholar** – 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5 & 9.8

Class Time, Course Location and Course Process

*This course will take place in a hybrid-flexible (HyFlex) format. **The midterm and final exam will take place IN-PERSON.***

All students will complete weekly self-directed learning activities (e.g. readings, videos, etc.) that will be posted on OWL Brightspace. Weekly learning materials will be posted on Thursdays at 1630 to Brightspace OWL for the following week. Students must familiarize themselves with the course Brightspace OWL site.

Lectures will be held **in-person** on Thursdays every week from 1330-1630 in Middlesex College Room 110. During weeks 7-12, in-person lectures will continue as scheduled (Thursdays 1330-1630), and recordings of these lectures will be posted on Brightspace via the Content tab on Thursdays at 1700 for students unable to attend due to placement.

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>. If students need assistance with OWL Brightspace, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#) online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800 for technical support. Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g. Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

Course Communication and Process:

Faculty and students will contribute to the learning in the course. All course participants have a responsibility to engage in discussion, share understandings, and collaborate with colleagues. Respectful participation is expected of everyone. This means that all preparatory activities must be completed, as lectures will focus on application of information, rather than simply a review of theoretical information. Communication will occur via announcements posted on the course site and Western email. *Students must visit the course site on a regular basis*, as announcements and updates are posted by the course instructor regularly. Faculty members will be available for individual and/or group consultation at mutually agreed upon times. Students who are having difficulty with course content should contact their instructor for assistance.

For questions about course content, tests, or assignments, students can post in the Discussions Q&A. These forums are anonymous to provide a safe space for students to raise questions. Questions can be answered either by peers in the course or the course instructor. Using the discussion board for questions about the course allows all students to review answers.

For individual course concerns, all communication with the course instructor will occur via email. When communicating with me via email, instructors will attempt to respond within 48 hours during weekdays; during weekends, please expect a response the following week.

Students must include their COURSE CODE in the subject of their email, or a response will not be provided.

Office hours will be held on Thursdays from 1645-1745. Outside of this time, requests can be made to the course instructor via email.

Textbooks:

Required: Lewis, S. M., Dirksen, S. R., Heitkemper, M. M., Bucher, L., Barry, M. A., Harding, M. M., & Roberts, D. (Eds.). (2023). *Lewis's medical-surgical nursing in Canada: Assessment and management of clinical problems* (5th ed.). Elsevier. Available through Western Bookstore [HERE](#) and through Western Libraries [HERE](#).

Students may purchase earlier editions of the textbook; but page references for the readings will not be provided for other editions. This textbook will be used in further medical surgical courses in this program including N4401 and was used previously in N2630.

Class Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change throughout the course as necessary.

Week	Topic	Important Dates
Week 1 Sept 4	Complex Fluid Balance and Circulation I	
Week 2 Sept 11	Complex Fluid Balance and Circulation II	Nurse Achieve Quiz #1 Open: Sept 11 @ 1700 Close: Sept 18 @ 0900
Week 3 Sept 18	Complex Cardiac Health	
Week 4 Sept 25	Complex Respiratory Health	
Week 5 Oct 2	Complex Renal Health	Case Study Assignment Due Oct 2 at 2355
Week 6 October 9	Midterm	October 9 @ 1330 IN CLASS
Week 7 October 16	Complex Neurological Health I	Nurse Achieve Quiz #2 Open: Oct 16 @ 1700 Close: Oct 23 @ 0900
Week 8 October 23	Complex Neurological Health II	
Week 9 October 30	Complex Neurological Health III	
Week 10 November 13	Complex Gastrointestinal Health	Nurse Achieve Quiz #3 Open: Nov 13 @ 1700 Close: Nov 20 @ 0900
Week 11 November 20	Complex Hepatic Health	
Week 12 November 27	Complex Endocrine Health	Nurse Achieve Quiz #4 Open: Nov 27 @ 1700 Close: Dec 4 @ 0900
TBD	Final Exam	Date per Final Exam Schedule

Summary of Opportunities to Demonstrate Learning

OPPORTUNITIES TO DEMONSTRATE LEARNING	INDIVIDUAL / GROUP	VALUE	DUE DATE
Nurse Achieve Quizzes	Individual	10 5% per quiz, choose/best of 2 of 4	2 of 4 quizzes as per below
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex Fluid Balance and Circulation I & II 		Up to 5%	Open: Sept 11 @ 1700 Close: Sept 18 @ 0900
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex Renal & Neurological Health I 		Up to 5%	Open: Oct 16 @ 1700 Close: Oct 23 @ 0900
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex Neurological II/III & Gastrointestinal Health 		Up to 5%	Open: Nov 13 @ 1700 Close: Nov 20 @ 0900
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex Hepatic & Endocrine Health 		Up to 5%	Open: Nov 27 @ 1700 Close: Dec 4 @ 0900
Case Study Activity	Individual/Group	20	October 2 at 2355
Mid-Term Test	Individual	30*	October 9 IN CLASS
Final Exam	Individual	40*	TBD during Fall Exam Period IN-PERSON

*** Students in this course must achieve a minimum of 65% average between the midterm and final exam (excluding all other course evaluations) to be successful in this course.**

Policies related to assessments/evaluations apply to these assessments. Please review these policies in the Policies section of this Course Outline below to familiarize yourself.

1. Nurse Achieve-10% of course grade
Best 2 of 4 quizzes, worth 5% each

If you complete more than 2 quizzes, your highest 2 quiz grades will be recorded for your course grade.

Quiz 1	Complex Fluid Balance and Circulation I & II	Open: Sept 11 @ 1700 Close: Sept 18 @ 0900
Quiz 2	Complex Renal & Neurological Health I	Open: Oct 16 @ 1700 Close: Oct 23 @ 0900
Quiz 3	Complex Neurological II/III & Gastrointestinal Health	Open: Nov 13 @ 1700 Close: Nov 20 @ 0900
Quiz 4	Complex Hepatic & Endocrine Health	Open: Nov 27 @ 1700 Close: Dec 4 @ 0900

Quizzes will take place via Nurse Achieve. Each quiz will be 10 questions. Quizzes will open and close as per the dates above and have a time limit of 45 minutes. Each student will have **2 attempts** available for each quiz, accessible anytime during the open window.

Further instructions available on the ***Nurse Achieve*** tab on Brightspace OWL.

Policies related to assessments/evaluations apply to this assessment. Please review these policies in the Policies section of this Course Outline below to familiarize yourself.

2. Case Study Activity: 20% of course grade.
Due: October 2, 2025 at 2355

The purpose of the case study activity is for you to:

- apply theoretical concepts to a clinical scenario
- identify relevant information and the clinical significance of that data
- analyze lab values and relate them to the specific pathophysiology

This activity will provide an opportunity to synthesize your learning from this course so far, building on your previous learnings in N2630, and other courses in the program. You will be provided with a case study and will complete both short answer questions about the case. For this activity, you can choose to work individually, or in groups of up to 5 students maximum.

You will be submitting your work via Gradescope. Instructions for submission will be provided. One group member will be submitting on behalf of your group and identifying other students in the group during the submission.

3. Mid-Term Test: 30% of course grade
October 9, 2025 at 1330h in-class

This multiple-choice quiz includes content from weeks 1-5 and will occur on October 9, 2025. This will take place in-class at Middlesex College Room 110 from 1330-1530.

This test will have 60 questions and you will have 2 hours to complete.

If a student is absent for the test, they are to contact the academic advisor and course professor as soon as possible. If accommodation is warranted and granted, a make-up test may be arranged. If you require accommodated exams, please connect with [Accessible Education](#).

*Students in this course must achieve a minimum of 65% average between the midterm and final exam (excluding all other course evaluations) to be successful in this course.

This means your $(\text{midterm grade} / 100) + (\text{final exam grade} / 100) / 2$ must equal a minimum of 65 to be successful in this course. This means even if your final course grade (with all elements included) is higher than 65%, but your average between these 2 exams is not 65, you will be unsuccessful in this course.

4. Final Examination: 40% of course grade
TBD during Exam Period

This multiple-choice quiz includes content from weeks 1-12, with an emphasis on content from weeks 7-12 (~70% of questions) compared to content that was covered in weeks 1-5 (~30% of questions).

This test will have 80 questions and you will have 3 hours to complete. ***Please note that this date and time will be released from the Office of the Registrar.***

If a student is absent from the exam, they are to contact the academic advisor and course professor as soon as possible. If an accommodation is warranted and granted, a make-up test may be arranged. If you require accommodated exams, please connect with accommodated education.

Students in this course must achieve a minimum of 65% average between the midterm and final exam (excluding all other course evaluations) to be successful in this course.

This means your $(\text{midterm grade} / 100) + (\text{final exam grade} / 100) / 2$ must equal a minimum of 65 to be successful in this course. This means even if your final course grade (with all elements included) is higher than 65%, but your average between these 2 exams is not 65, you will be unsuccessful in this course.

Policies

Students are required to read the BScN Programs Manual and be familiar with its contents and affiliated policies. *Copies of these policies can be reviewed by students on the [Nursing Undergraduate Information](#).*

Assignments and Exams

Please refer to the Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual for UWO academic guidelines for penalties for late assignments, re-grading of assignments, and the protocol for missed mid-term or final exams. The Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual is found on the [Nursing Undergraduate Information](#).

Attendance

Students are expected to demonstrate professional responsibility through regular participation in all course learning activities. Students are expected to organize their schedules such that weekly preparation for class is completed, and classes are attended, with consistency.

Do not book personal/travel plans until the FINAL exam schedule is posted for Summer exam period. Students who fail to appear for the final examination at the time set need to obtain permission to write the missed exam. Permission may be granted only on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Policies Related to Assessments/Evaluations

Academic Considerations and Absences from Lectures and Assessments

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on [Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term **without** supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g., December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests (typically scheduled during the last week of the term).

Students should also note that the instructor may **designate** one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Academic consideration requests may be denied when flexibility in assessment has already been included. Examples of flexibility in assessment include when there are assessments not required for calculation of the final grade (e.g. 8 out of 10 quizzes), when there is flexibility in the submission timeframe (e.g.

72 hour no late penalty period), or when timed assessments (e.g., quizzes) are available over an extended period of time (e.g., when you are given a 72 hour time period to start – and finish – the assessment).

In this course, the Case Study Activity has a 72-hour No Questions Asked Late Policy that applies (see below). Flexibility has been built into your course assignments and evaluations.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course syllabus. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

72-hour No Questions Asked Late Work Policy

For assignments (**Case Study Activity**) in this course **ONLY**, you may have a **zero penalty 72-hour extension** from the time of the original due date for use at your discretion. For example, if the assignment is due on Thursday, Sept 11th at 9:00 am, should you determine you require academic consideration, your new assignment deadline would be Sunday Sept 14th at 9:00 am. You are NOT required to email your course instructor in this course for a delayed submission of less than 72-hours (please, do not email me). If you submit your work within 72-hours of the original due date, you will not have any grade deduction. The purpose of this specific course policy is to support students with last-minute unforeseen circumstances (internet issues, sick kids, Roger's outage, etc.), assuming that the majority of the assignment is complete and will be submitted within 72-hours. If unforeseen circumstances last beyond 72-hours and you have not consulted with your academic counsellor for accommodation, upon submission of the assignment a late penalty will be applied to the date of the ORIGINAL deadline. For example, if the assignment is due on Thursday, Sept 11th at 9:00 and you submit your work 4-days late without an accommodation from your academic advisor, you will have 20% of your grade deducted from your assignment (This is in accordance with the 5%/day late work policy, up to a maximum of 10 days, after which you will receive a zero). **This policy ONLY applies to the Case Study Activity assignment. This policy does not apply to the Nurse Achieve Quizzes, Midterm exam, or Final exam.**

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examination dates. The Faculty of Health Sciences has set School-specific dates for these Special Examinations. Please speak with your instructor about the date on which the Special Examination for this course will be held.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, in the [Academic Calendar](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca) (westerncalendar.uwo.ca).

Plagiarism

Student work is expected to be original. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and could lead to a zero on the assignment in question, a zero in this course, or your expulsion from the university. You are plagiarizing if you insert a phrase, sentence or paragraph taken directly from another author without acknowledging that the work belongs to him/her. Similarly, you are plagiarizing if you paraphrase or summarize another author's ideas without acknowledging that the ideas belong to someone else. All papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Use of AI Tools

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments and/or lab reports should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

Re-submission of Previously Graded Material

Without the explicit written permission of the instructor, you may not submit any academic work for which credit has been obtained previously, or for which credit is being sought, in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

Use of Statistical Pattern Recognition on Multiple Choice Exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Review of Graded Assignments

After a graded assignment is returned, a student's first step is to take time to reflect on the assignment description in the syllabus, on the feedback provided by the original marker within the assignment, and on the marking rubric. If a student cannot understand the meaning or intent behind the feedback received, they may submit a written request to the original marker for an informal consultation to review the assignment grade. The request must include documentation of grounds, based on the marker's feedback, to support the assignment review. An assignment will not be reviewed simply because a student is unhappy with the grade received, or they believe the mark does not reflect the effort they put into completing the assignment.

Students who need assistance with their writing skills should contact on-campus resources for support. **Western Site:** <http://writing.uwo.ca/>

If, after the assignment review, a student still believes they have grounds with supporting documentation their grade was unfairly calculated, they may request a formal appeal of the grade in accordance with the policy for academic appeals.

Western Site: Undergraduate Student Academic Appeal

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_178

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner. Students are further expected to attend to announcements presented through Brightspace, and to read emails generated in this way.

Use of Electronic Devices

During Exams

Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glass, smart watches, or iPods) during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations. **These devices MUST either be left at home or with**

your belongings at the front of the room. They MUST NOT be at your test/exam desk or in your pocket. Any student found with a prohibited device will receive an automatic grade of zero on the test or exam.

During Lectures and Tutorials

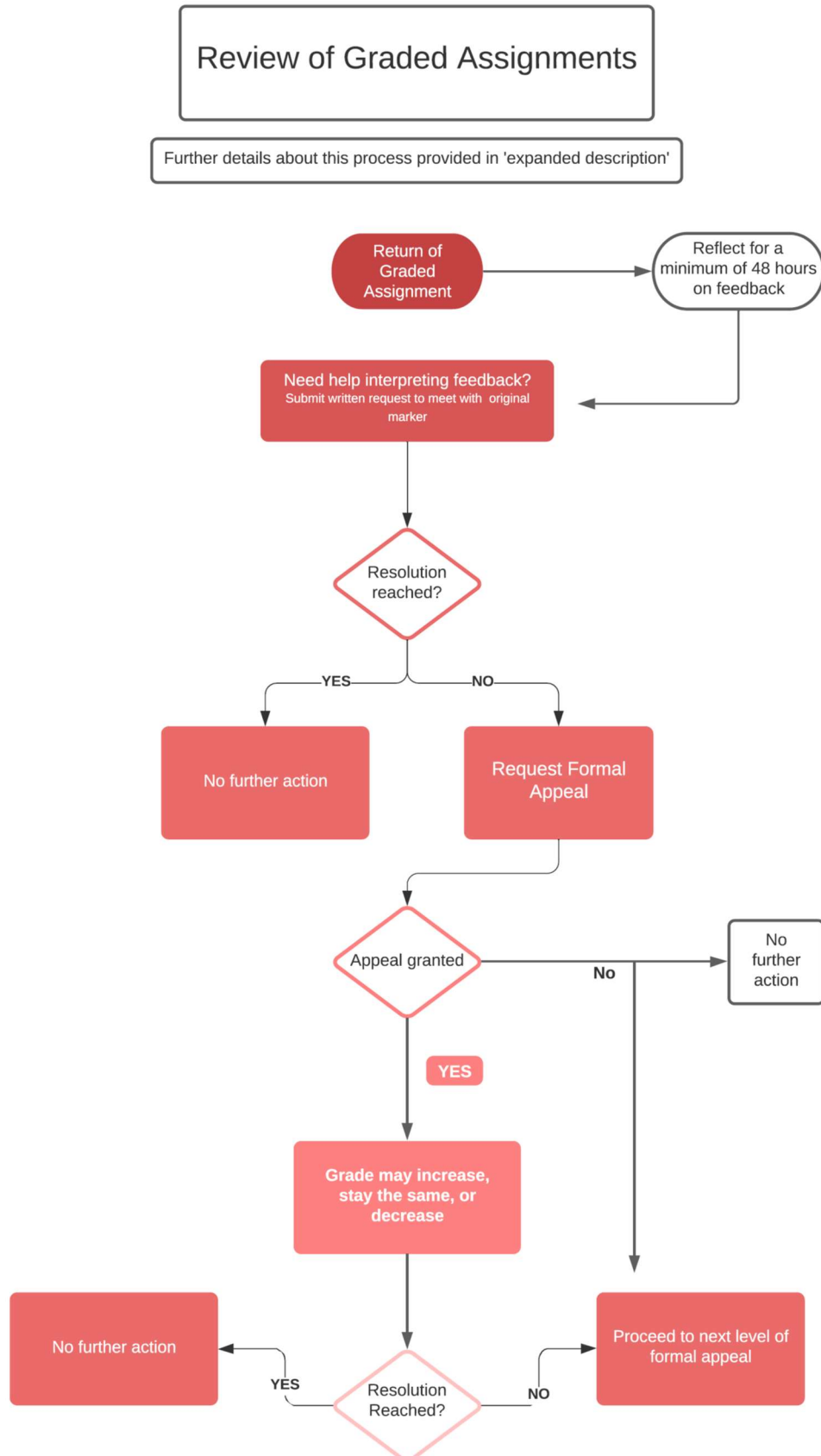
Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class.

Brightspace

All course material is posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>. If students need assistance with OWL Brightspace, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#) online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800 for technical support. Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

Contingency Plan for an In-Person Class Pivoting to 100% Online Learning

In the event of an event that requires this course to pivot to online content delivery, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor



Accessibility, Accommodation and Support Services at Western

Technical Support: For Brightspace OWL support contact the WTS HelpDesk at <https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/index.html>

Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Academic Support and Engagement - <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca>
2. Wellness and Well-being - <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

The websites for Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>), and the same for affiliated university colleges when appropriate, and any appropriate Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>) and the Student Development Services, should be provided for easy access.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (e.g. First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada. We accept that as Registered Nurses and an employees of a public institution, we have the responsibility to contribute toward

revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and community service.