



Care of Individuals and Families Through the Cancer Care Continuum

Nursing 3440B
Winter 2026

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N3440 Care of Individuals and Families Through the Cancer Care Continuum

Calendar Description:

This course will provide opportunities to develop an understanding of the cancer care continuum for clients and families. Students will focus on key concepts related to prevention, screening, diagnosis, management, palliation, and survivorship within oncology care.

Expanded Course Description:

The burden of cancer has wide-reaching impact on all components of the health care system. This course will provide an opportunity for the student to synthesize the theoretical, philosophical, and ethical dimensions of the profession and nursing practice in the exploration of the role of the nurse when caring for patients and families across the cancer care continuum. Various teaching-learning approaches will be used, which may include case study, self-directed learning, group and individual written assignments and tests. Through the various assignments, students will demonstrate a deeper understanding and appreciation of the person and family faced with a cancer diagnosis.

Essential elements for the success of each class are preparation and regular and active participation (as appropriate). Engagement with peers, guests, and course instructors, materials, and activities to help develop, share, analyze, and critique ideas will enable students to gain knowledge of course concepts and attain the course objectives.

Course Weight & Delivery:

0.5 FCE theory lecture course online

Course Goals:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of an integrated approach in the nursing care of clients and families experiencing the complex health challenges of a cancer diagnosis.
2. Incorporate a strengths-based approach and relevant evidence in cases involving individuals and families across the lifespan.
3. Reflect on personal experiences and values and how they may shape personal, professional, and interprofessional beliefs and behaviours in cancer care.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the nurse within an interprofessional collaborative team and the importance of the therapeutic nurse-client relationship.
5. Incorporate scholarship and critical reflection into course learning activities.

6. Articulate the relevance of professional, interprofessional and nursing informatics competencies, ethical standards, and professional accountability in nursing.

Major Concepts in the Course:

Persons: Clients, Ways of knowing, Time/transitions, Context/culture, Growth and development, Diversity

Health and Healthcare: Health, health promotion/disease prevention, primary health care, safety, interprofessional collaborative practice, health system

Nursing: Strengths-based nursing care, client-centred care, communication, holistic care, patterns of knowing, professionalism, ethical practice, assessment, clinical judgment, critical reflection, evidence-informed practice

Environment: Social determinants of health, physical determinants of health, adverse events, political influences

Entry-to-Practice Competencies for Registered Nurses (College of Nurses of Ontario, 2019) addressed in the course:

- Clinician: 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.15, 1.21, 1.22, 1.23
- Professional: 2.1, 2.7
- Communicator: 3.3, 3.7
- Collaborator: 4.1, 4.3,
- Coordinator: 5.2, 5.5
- Leader: 6.1, 6.7, 6.10
- Advocate: 7.3, 7.4, 7.7, 7.9, 7.13
- Scholar: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5

Interprofessional Competencies (Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative, 2010) addressed in the course:

- Interprofessional communication
- Role clarification
- Patient/Client/Family/Community-centred care
- Team functioning
- Interprofessional Communication
- Interprofessional Conflict Resolution

Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) Nursing Informatics Entry-to-Practice Competencies addressed in the course:

- Information and knowledge management
- Professional and regulatory accountability
- Information and communication technologies

Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) Mental Health and Addiction Entry-to-Practice Competencies addressed in the course:

- Domains 1-5

Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) Public Health Nursing Competencies addressed in the course:

- Health Promotion
- Collaborate and advocate

Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) Palliative and End-of-Life Care Competencies addressed in the course:

- Competencies 1-9

How this course will contribute to your development as a Professional Nurse

The knowledge gained from this course is important in all aspects of nursing practice. This course will refine your ability to apply critical ‘thinking like a nurse’ in your professional nursing practice of individuals and families within the cancer care continuum.

How this course will contribute to your development as an Interprofessional Team Member

The knowledge, skills, and attitudes you develop in this course will refine your role as a nurse in working with other team members. You will also see the importance of the role of the client and their family in working within health teams and seeing how, when team members work together, there is a combined benefit to their clients.

How we will work collaboratively together

We believe in the creation of a caring community within the classroom setting which will positively affect your interactions outside of the classroom as well. Teachers will serve in the role of facilitator to assist you to reach your goals. Group activities are a common teaching approach to provoke discussion of course concepts and assist you in self-reflection and in developing skill in knowing the other.

Additional Course and Instructor Information (also available on course OWL site)

Course Section	Section 650
Course Instructor	
Email	
Office Hours	By appointment
Course GTA	To be confirmed
Email	To be confirmed
Course Delivery	Asynchronous
Course Location/Time	Online (via OWL Brightspace)
Course Assessment(s)	Please see section on “ <i>Opportunities to Demonstrate Learning</i> ”

Required Resources and Texts

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.)*. American Psychological Association.
Available at the Western Bookstore

*Brunner, L. Sholtis., Suddarth, D. Smith., Khalili, H., & Reid, D. (2020). *Brunner & Suddarth’s Canadian textbook of medical-surgical nursing*. (M. El-Hussein, Ed.; 4th edition / [edited by] Mohamed Toufic El Hussein, PhD, RN, NP, Joseph Osuji, PhD, RN.). Wolters Kluwer.

***This was a required text in Nursing 2630 .** The eBook is available at the Western Bookstore
The required readings from this text have been submitted to the Western Libraries Course Readings Service.

Additional Resources and Texts

Supplementary readings are outlined in the weekly learning activities and have been submitted to the Western Libraries Course Readings Service.

Note: The Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO), provides **complimentary membership for undergraduate nursing students.**

<https://www.cano-acio.ca/page/MembershipType>

Benefits provide access to numerous practice and education resources, including the peer-reviewed *Canadian Oncology Nursing Journal*.

**N3440 Winter Term 2026
Weekly Schedule**

Week (Starting date)	Weekly Topic	Assessments and Evaluations
Week 1 (Jan 5)	Introduction to the Cancer Care Continuum	
Week 2 (Jan 12)	The Science of Cancer	<i>Week 2 Quiz (#1) opens</i>
Week 3 (Jan 19)	Health Promotion and Screening	<i>Week 3 Quiz (#2) opens</i> January 19, 2026 @ 2359 Proctortrack onboarding quiz due
Week 4 (Jan 26)	Diagnosis and Treatment	
Week 5 (Feb 2)	Symptom Management in Cancer Care	
Week 6 (Feb 9)	The Lived Experience	February 9, 2026 @ 2359 Indigenous Cancer Care Learning Module & Reflection due
	Reading Week – February 16-20, 2026	
Week 7 (Feb 23)	Cultural Considerations	<i>Week 7 Quiz (#3) opens.</i>
Week 8 (March 2)	Interdisciplinary care	
Week 9 (March 9)	Cancer Care Transitions - Survivorship	<i>Week 9 Quiz (#4) opens</i>

Week 10 (March 16)	Cancer Care Transitions – Palliative Care	March 16, 2026 @ 2359 Case Studies assignment due.
Week 11 (March 23)	Oncologic Emergencies	
Week 12 (March 30)	Knowledge Synthesis & Course Review	April 2, 2026 @ 2359 Closing date for all weekly quizzes.
	Final Exam scheduled by the Office of the Registrar Examination Period: April 12-30, 2026	

Opportunities to Demonstrate Learning

1. Proctortrack Onboarding Quiz (5%)

Due: January 19, 2026 @ 2359hrs

As remote proctoring will be required in this course, **each student must onboard in Proctortrack** located in the OWL course site, **to create a profile and complete the Onboarding Quiz**. This process will ensure Proctortrack is compatible with your computer and provide an opportunity for you to become familiar with the testing environment. Once the onboarding quiz has been uploaded and processed, your profile is created. This profile is used to verify your identity for each assessment. Students who have previously completed the onboarding process for evaluations in other course(s) must also complete the onboarding process and quiz for this course to receive credit. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western’s Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>

1.

2. “Indigenous Cancer Care and Challenges” Learning Module and Reflection Paper (15%)

Due: February 9, 2026 @ 2359

Part A: Learning Module Certificate of Completion (5%)

Students are provided with the opportunity to complete the “**Indigenous Cancer Care and Challenges**” Learning Module available through Ontario Health E-Learning.

Students will register with Ontario Health E-Learning through the following link: <https://elearning.ontariohealth.ca> and complete the assigned learning module. Once completed, students will then submit their Certificate of Completion through the OWL Assignments' tab.

Part B: Reflection Paper (10%)

Students will engage in critical reflection on the “Indigenous Cancer Care” course completed in Part A, and consider the cancer landscape, risk factors and determinants of health for Indigenous people. Students will submit a 3-page reflection paper in APA format to Turnitin through the OWL Assignments' tab. Detailed assignment information is provided in the rubric.

3. Oncology Case Studies Assignment (20%)

Due: March 16, 2026 @ 2359hrs

Intended to support a student's learning of course content, each student will work independently to complete two (2) oncology case studies relevant to common clinical oncology situations encountered in nursing practice. This assignment will be submitted to Turnitin through the OWL Assignments' tab. Additional information regarding this assignment, including further description, instructions, and criteria for evaluation will be made available in Week 6 on the course OWL site.

4. Learning Module Quizzes (20%)

Due: April 2, 2026 @ 2359hrs

Students will individually complete four (4) learning module quizzes online in the OWL course site. The quizzes are distributed across the term, and each quiz will be made available at the beginning of the designated week as outlined in the weekly schedule. Each quiz is worth 5% of the course grade and will consist of 5 multiple choice questions (MCQs) based on the corresponding weekly learning activities (e.g., assigned readings, resources, content, and lecture video.) Students will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz in one attempt only. The quizzes will remain open until Week 12, with **all quiz submissions due on April 2, 2026, at 2359hrs.**

5. Final Exam (40%)

Date: To be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar

An **individual, online, and synchronous** final exam is scheduled by the Office of Registrar. The final exam will cover course content from weeks 1 through 12, inclusive. The exam will provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding of course concepts.

Summary of Opportunities to Demonstrate Learning

OPPORTUNITIES TO DEMONSTRATE LEARNING	VALUE	DUE DATE	COURSE GOALS
1. Proctortrack Onboarding Quiz	5%	January 19, 2026 @ 2359hrs	1-6
2. Indigenous Cancer Care Learning Module & Reflection paper	15%	February 9, 2026 @2359hrs	1-6
3. Oncology Case Studies assignment	20%	March 16, 2026 @ 2359hrs	1-6
4. Learning Module Quizzes* 4 modules x 5% each	20%	April 2, 2026 @ 2359hrs	1-6
5. Final Exam*	40%	Date scheduled by the Registrar's Office	1-6
Total	100%		

**Please refer to the course syllabus for the detailed description of the use of an online remote proctoring service for the course learning module quizzes and final exam and the policy on Online Proctoring for this course.*

Assignment extensions

For this course only, the option of a 48-hour extension without penalty is offered for the following assignments.

- Indigenous Cancer Care Learning Module & Reflection paper
- Oncology Case Studies assignment

This policy does not apply to the course quizzes or the Final Exam.

This option is available to support students where last minute circumstances arise (example: illness, sick children, computer technical issues), **assuming the majority of the assignment is**

near to completion and will be submitted within 48 hours.

Process:

As an example, if an assignment is due on January 20th @ 11:59PM and a student determines they need academic accommodation for the assignment, the extended due date would be January 22nd @ 11:59PM.

- The student is not required to email the instructor about the delayed submission **providing the assignment is submitted within 48 hours following the due date.**
- No late penalty will be applied, if the assignment is submitted within the 48 hour-extension period.
- If the unforeseen circumstances are **anticipated to last beyond 48 hours**, the student **must contact their Academic Advisor**. If the student **does not contact their Academic Advisor until after the 48-hour extension period**, a late penalty will be applied to the submitted assignment **effective to the original due date**. The late penalty is in accordance with Academic Policy of 5% late deduction/per day to a maximum of 10 days.

Policies

All policies related to assignments are in the Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual on the [Undergraduate Student Information site](#) .

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 at [School of Nursing Policies](#)

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>

Attendance

Students are expected to demonstrate professional responsibility through regular attendance at, and participation in, all course learning activities. Much of the learning that takes place is a result of preparation and engagement with the material, as well as active dialogue with colleagues and faculty. Students are expected to organize their schedules such that weekly preparation for class is completed, and classes are attended, with consistency.

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).

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.

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, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_under_grad.pdf.

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 Artificial Intelligence for the Completion of Course Work

Within this course, you may only use artificial intelligence tools (e.g., “ChatGPT”) in ways that are specifically authorized by the course instructor. All submitted work must reflect your own thoughts and independent written work.

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.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

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) other than the device on which you are completing your assessment (e.g. laptop, desktop computer) during ANY online tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations. **These devices MUST NOT be accessible during the test/exam. Any student found with a prohibited device will receive an automatic grade of zero on the test or exam.**

Brightspace

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.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Online Proctoring

Tests and examinations in this course may be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

