



**N3700 Professional Practice:  
Clients with Health Challenges**

Summer 2026

Course Coordinator: Jessica Timbrell

**Copyright © 2026 Western University**

All rights reserved. This book is protected by copyright. No part of it may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded, or otherwise – without the permission from Western University, London, Ontario, N6A 3K7.

## **Professional Practice: Clients with Health Challenges**

### **Calendar Description**

Students will apply theory and integrate concepts related to health promotion and caring with clients experiencing health challenges. The focus of this course is the acquisition of nursing skills, utilizations of technological interventions, and application of evidence informed practice.

### **Expanded Course Description**

Students will have opportunity to learn and apply new knowledge and skill as they begin to develop competency in a variety of psychomotor skills. Students will also integrate concepts learned to date in theory classes and previous laboratory courses, using a variety of learning activities. Students will learn how to engage in evidence informed practice as they develop the attitudes and thinking patterns of professional nurses that are required for the safe, competent execution of specific psychomotor skills. Concepts to be discussed include asepsis, wound care, promotion of nutrition and elimination, medication administration and mobility. Working from a health promotion perspective, students will learn psychomotor skills which may be applied in a variety of settings.

### **Course Goals**

Students will:

1. develop knowledge of the professional nursing responsibilities when performing various psychomotor skills
2. engage in evidence-informed practice in a safe, caring, ethical manner according to professional standards
3. integrate previous knowledge of health assessment to identify pre and post assessments related to the performance of various psychomotor skills
4. integrate infection prevention & control principles
5. demonstrate beginning competency in the performance of various psychomotor skills
6. be self-directed and accept responsibility for own learning.

### **Major Concepts in the course:**

- health assessment
- caring
- professionalism
- clinical judgment
- infection prevention and control
- evidence-informed practice
- safety

### **College of Nurses Entry to Practice Competencies addressed in the course:**

Clinician: 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.13, 1.26

Professional: 2.2, 2.5

Communicator: 3.2, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8

Collaborator: 5.2, 5.3

Leader: 6.6, 6.9

Advocate: 7.9

Educator: 8.4

Scholar: 9.8

### **Nursing Informatics Competencies (CASN, 2015) addressed in the course:**

- uses relevant information and knowledge to support the delivery of evidence-informed client care: indicators 1
- uses ICTs in accordance with professional and regulatory standards and workplace policies: indicators 1, 5
- uses ICTs in the delivery of client/client care: indicators 1, 3

### **Interprofessional Competencies (CIHC, 2010) addressed in the course:**

1. Role Clarification. Learners are beginning to understand their own role and the roles of those in other professions and use this knowledge appropriately to establish and achieve client/client/family and community goals.
2. Client/Client/Family/Community-Centred Care. Learners seek out, integrate and value, as a partner, the input and the engagement of the client/client/family/community in designing and implementing care/services.

### **How this course will contribute to your development as a professional nurse:**

Building upon knowledge and skill acquired in Levels 1 and 2, this course will provide students with the opportunity to use nursing skills and apply Tanner's clinical judgment model (Tanner, 2006) as new knowledge and skills are acquired. Students will learn how to perform basic psychomotor skills, incorporating concepts of asepsis, safety, health promotion and healing. These fundamental skills form the basis of care that can be applied across all health care settings.

### **How we will work together:**

Each laboratory session will consist of interactive learning activities designed to assist students to develop clinical judgment and skill in the performance of various psychomotor skills, including administration of enteral feeds, wound care, urinary catheterization and oxygen therapy. It is the student's responsibility to be an **active** and **self-directed** participant in each laboratory session. This requires completion of all learning activities and participation by all members. Attendance at all laboratory sessions is mandatory. Respectful interaction and the provision of nursing care based on College of Nurses (CNO) standards is expected from all participants.

Faculty will support students in the continued development of knowledge and skills necessary for professional nursing practice by asking questions, providing demonstrations, providing feedback, and leading discussions.

Students will be required to complete the preparation activities for each lab and use their knowledge to participate meaningfully in the lab activities. All students are expected to share their experiences and engage in reflective analysis of their practice to advance learning.

Lab kits, purchased through the **UWO Bookstore** (same kit purchased for 2500)

Uniform, name tag, watch, and stethoscope are required for all lab sessions. Please refer to the Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual for information regarding the uniform policy.

[Undergraduate Program Site](#)

### **Professional Practice Evaluation**

Students must demonstrate progression and meet the competencies, demonstrate safe practice, and meet course learning outcomes to be successful in N3700. If students are unable to achieve these requirements, they will not be successful and may fail the course.

A satisfactory standing in this course means students:

- attend and engage in all lab sessions
- demonstrate safety and competence in practice
- demonstrate progression of knowledge and skill in practice
- integrate peer/instructor feedback into practice
- complete all assignments/demonstrations by the specified due dates
- achieve minimum 70% on each of 3 quizzes
- meet all course learning outcomes

### N3700 Lab Schedule

Date	Topic	Course goals
Tues/Thurs OR Wed/Fri		
Lab 1 May 5 or 6	Oxygen Therapy	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Lab 2 May 7 or 8	Mobility & bedmaking	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Lab 3 May 12 or 13	Wound care I- simple wounds <i>Oxygen quiz due May 12 by 11: 59 pm Find it in Brightspace Quizzes</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Lab 4 May 14 or 15	Wound care II- complex wounds	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Lab 5 May 19 or 20	Catheterization 1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Lab 6 May 21 or 22	Catheterization II	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Lab 7 May 26 or 27	Demonstration Day: Sterile technique <i>In-class assignment: Peer evaluations</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Lab 8 May 28 or 29	Safe feeding & mouthcare <i>Bring you toothbrush, toothpaste, and face cloth/hand towel</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Lab 9 June 2 or 3	Enteral nutrition <i>In-class assignment: fluid balance case I</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Lab 10 June 4 or 5	Care of a client with an NG tube/NG tube insertion  <i>In-class assignment: fluid balance case study II</i>  <i>Brightspace wound quiz &amp; catheter quiz due June 3 by 11:59 pm</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Lab 11 June 9 or 10	Administering medications through an enteral tube	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Lab 12 June 11 or 12	Hygiene and Elimination	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

### Methods of Evaluation

Evaluation	Due	Comments
Oxygen quiz In Brightspace Quiz tab	May 12 by 11:59 pm	Students have one attempt <i>Minimum 70% is required</i>
Wound care quiz In Brightspace Quiz tab	June 3 by 11:59 pm	Students have one attempt <i>Minimum 70% is required</i>
Catheterization quiz In Brightspace Quiz tab	June 3 by 11:59 pm	Students have one attempt <i>Minimum 70% is required</i>
Peer evaluation: sterile technique	May 26 or 28	In-Class Submitted at end of lab session
Fluid balance case study I & II	June 2 or 3 June 4 or 5	In-class assignments Submit at the end of the lab

***Successful completion of the above assignments is a condition of passing the course***

#### 1. Quizzes x 3 (online)

**Due: Oxygen (May 12) Wound & catheter (June 3)**

**Minimum 70% required**

The purpose of the quizzes is for students to demonstrate their understanding of course content following self-study of the oxygen, wound care, and catheterization learning modules in Brightspace.

Full Description:

The self-study modules allow students to:

- gain theoretical and practical knowledge of nursing skills associated with oxygen administration, wound care, and urinary catheterization
- make linkages between theory and practice by applying knowledge from the learning modules during nursing skills laboratory sessions.
- After completing each module, students complete a 10-question quiz.

## 2. Peer Evaluation: Sterile Technique

**Due: May 26 or 27**

The purpose of this assignment is for students to reinforce their own knowledge and understanding of the relevant nursing intervention through observation and critique of a classmates' demonstration.

### Full Description

Students will execute a demonstration of competence with sterile technique in the context of a dressing change and a sterile catheterization while their peer observes and follows along with an assessment tool. Feedback based on their observations is provided, and the assessment tool is submitted to the lab instructor at the end of the session for review.

## 3. Fluid Balance Case Studies

**Due: June 2 or 3; June 4 or 5**

The purpose of the case studies is for students to expand on their knowledge of completing fluid balance records learned in 2500 by adding additional columns for tracking tube feeding solution absorption. Students must use critical thinking and clinical judgement to determine whether a client's fluid balance is appropriate or if it indicates a risk to patient health.

### Full Description

Students will follow a case study and apply the relevant values/volumes to the fluid balance record. Students are challenged to maintain organization, clarity, and accuracy as the concepts from the medication administration course are combined to add complexity to the documentation.

### Lab Environment

No food or beverages are permitted in the lab. Students are responsible for ensuring the lab is set up for the next session as a courtesy to their peers and as part of their professional responsibility. Uniforms and nametags are to be worn to all laboratory sessions.

Hand hygiene must be performed upon entering and exiting the lab. Hands will be cleaned throughout the session as required.

### 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.

**Attendance for clinical learning experiences is mandatory.** Students who are absent for more than 2 labs, **regardless of the reason**, will be automatically removed from the course. Students **will not** receive any warnings or notices regarding their absences. Please visit the SON Undergraduate Program Site for further information about this and other school policies:

[Undergraduate Program Site](#)

**Please note:** there is no make-up time available when labs are missed. Students are accountable for any gaps in their learning resulting from missed lab time and must commit to seeking opportunities to address the gaps in future courses. See the [Undergraduate Program Site](#) for full absence policy.

### **Scholarly Requirements**

In this program, scholarly writing is a requirement. Therefore, all scholarly papers will follow the sixth edition of the Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (2010), which includes guidelines for both content and format. In addition, all other writing will follow APA (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) format when citing or referring to an author's work or ideas. Failure to do so is unethical and is plagiarism.

### **Social Media**

Students who post client and/or lab-related information on social media will be reported to the Associate Dean for breach of confidentiality and violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Such behavior may compromise a student's standing in the program.

### **Plagiarism**

Students must write their scholarly papers and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. This applies to self-plagiarism, where a student submits part/all of an assignment from another course. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required 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 The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### **Assignments and Exams**

Please refer to the Undergraduate BScN program manual for academic guidelines for penalties for late assignments, re-grading of assignments, and the protocol for missed assignments and exams. The Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual: [Undergraduate Program Site](#)

### **Electronic Devices**

No electronic devices are permitted in the Clinical Education Suite. Calculators are the only device permitted. Electronic devices are useful in assisting with the teaching/learning process in both classroom and professional practice settings. In the classroom or praxis setting, devices should be used in a manner that is not distracting to others or oneself. In professional practice placement settings, please abide by the policies set by the agency about the use of social media, internet, and handheld devices. Additionally, technology use in the presence of clients or agency staff may require explanation as to its use as part of professional practice (e.g., a drug guide on a smart phone).

It is essential that client privacy and confidentiality be maintained when using electronic devices. When students and Clinical Instructors (CIs) are communicating via instant messaging, identifying client information cannot be included. Students and CIs are accountable for responsible use of instant messaging, this includes using professional language, setting device to silent/vibrate mode and refraining from personal messaging in the practice setting.

### **Mental Health**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western

[http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### Student Safety

Please refer to the Undergraduate BScN Programs Manual section on Student Safety Concerns: Guidelines for Responding in the Practice Setting Environment and the Student Safety Flow Chart found on the Undergraduate Programs site: [Undergraduate Program Site](#)

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR ALL NURSING STUDENTS

### Professional Standards and Ethical Conduct

All nursing students are expected to uphold the following principles from the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) Code of Conduct, Regulated Health Profession Act, or Nursing Act:

- **Respect for Dignity:** Treat patients and colleagues as individuals with inherent worth.
- **Safe and Competent Care:** Deliver care that meets professional standards.
- **Integrity and Trust:** Act honestly and ethically to maintain public confidence.
- **Collaboration:** Work respectfully and effectively with others.
- **Accountability:** Take responsibility for actions and decisions.
- **Public Confidence:** Conduct oneself in a manner that reflects positively on the profession.

### Unprofessional Conduct

The following behaviors are considered unprofessional and may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion:

- **Breach of Privacy and Confidentiality**
  - Unauthorized access, use, or disclosure of personal health information.
  - Failure to follow the Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA).
  - Sharing patient information on social media or in public forums.
  - Taking audio/video/photographic images in any setting including but not limited to: clinical settings, including lab and simulation, for any reason.
  - Recording theory classes without expressed permission from the class professor/instructor.
  - Posting class content or communications from course professors/instructors online.
- **Forgery or Falsification of Documents**
  - Altering, fabricating, or misrepresenting documents including but not limited to: clinical records, academic documents, pre-placement documents, or official forms in the clinical or academic setting.
  - Misrepresentation of clinical hours, assessments, or evaluations.
- **Discriminatory Behaviour**
  - Use of racist, misogynistic, homophobic, or other discriminatory language or actions.
  - Harassment or bullying
  - Violations of the Harassment and Violence Prevention Policy and Human Rights Policy.
- **Unsafe or Inappropriate Clinical Practice (lab, simulation and clinical settings)**
  - Demonstrating lack of knowledge, skill, judgment, professionalism or fitness to practice.
  - Engaging in behavior that jeopardizes patient safety or violates ethical standards.
  - Engaging in clinical practice while impaired by any substance.
- **Abuse or Misconduct**
  - Physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual abuse.
  - Breaches of the therapeutic nurse-client relationship.

- Any behaviour that would be deemed professional misconduct by the CNO

### **Sanctions**

Unprofessional conduct may lead to:

- **Oral or Written Reprimand**
- **Suspension** from clinical or academic activities
- **Expulsion** from the nursing program
- **Mandatory Remedial Education**
- **Revocation of Clinical Privileges**

Determination as to whether misconduct is sufficiently egregious as to warrant sanction rests with the Director (or designate) of the School of Nursing.