



NURS 4162 NCLEX-RN Preparatory Course
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Brittany Starnes, MSN, RNC-NIC
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Office Hours: By appointment
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Preferred Form of Communication: email Communication
Response Time: Two business days

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Textbooks:

Textbooks from previous nursing courses; Online resources and articles as directed.

Required Textbooks and/or Materials:

Texas Board of Nursing (BON) - Licensure by Examination
https://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure_examination.asp.html

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)

- NCLEX-RN Text Plan <https://www.ncsbn.org/publications/2023-nclex-rn-test-plan>
- Nurse Licensure Compact
<https://www.ncsbn.org/compacts.page>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Software Required:

- Microsoft Office
- ExamSoft Exemplify
- Assessment Technologies Institute, LLC. (2021). <https://www.atitesting.com>

Course Description

Provides comprehensive virtual and face-to-face content review in preparation for successful completion of the NCLEX-RN. Focuses on content mastery; critical thinking and clinical judgment; test-taking skills; professional and ethical practice; communication and collaboration; health promotion and maintenance; leadership and management; cultural competence; safety; and infection control. Students also gain an understanding of the roles of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) in developing and administering the RN licensing examination.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the mission, vision, and values of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and the Texas Board of Nursing (BON). (PLO 5; AACN Essentials 1, 9)
2. Explain in detail how the NCLEX-RN test plan components measure and reflect professional nursing practice. (PLO 2, 5; AACN Essentials 1, 4, 9, 10)
3. Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of core nursing concepts across various content areas and practice settings. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; AACN 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10)
4. Utilize effective test-taking strategies to approach NCLEX-style questions. (PLO 5; AACN Essentials 1, 9)
5. Demonstrate clinical judgment required for the provision of safe, effective patient-centered care by successfully completing the Comprehensive Predictor Assessment with at least a 90% probability of passing the licensure examination. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; AACN Essentials 1-10)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS**Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students must have an adequate working knowledge of the learning management system, Leomail, Microsoft Office Suite, Exemplify, ProjectConcert, and ATI online products.

Instructional Methods

Teaching methods include lecture, seminar, discussion, small group work, independent study of texts and library resources, computer-assisted instruction, audio-visual aids, student presentations, and assignments. While the faculty will provide guidance and consultation, the student is responsible for identification of learning needs, self-direction, seeking consultation, and demonstration of course objectives.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- Logging into the course website and email regularly for faculty communication (especially the night before class)
- Updating semester calendar with communicated changes
- Regular study (recommend a minimum 2-3 hours study/course credit hour per week). For example: 3-credit course = 6 to 9 hours study time/week.

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- Attendance at all class meetings, seminars and Live Review
- Review and remediation of all learning materials (ATI and quizzes).

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100% B = 80%-89% C = 75%-79% D = 60%-74% F = Below 60%

ASSESSMENTS

Assignments	Weight
Resume and Cover Letter	20%
Recommendation Letters (3)	20%
Application Dates Discussion & Application Completion	20%
ATI Capstone	10%
Virtual ATI Activities	10%
ATI Comprehensive Predictor Assessment	10%
Attendance at Live Review	10%
Total	100%

Late Submissions:

It is expected that students will submit all assignments on time. If an extension is needed, it should be requested **before** the due date/time and will be approved at the discretion of the course coordinator. Unexcused late assignments will be penalized 10% per day for each of the first two days overdue; on the 3rd day, the grade will be assigned as 0%. Communication on these matters is the student's responsibility. Multiple instances of late clinical assignments may result in receipt of a Student Performance and Behaviors Evaluation Form and, possibly, failure of clinical/course.

Paper Submissions:

All documents submitted online are to be in .docx (Word) or .rtf (Rich Text File) format. **No other formats will be accepted (JPEG, GIF, PDF, etc.).** Assignments need to be submitted in a maximum of one document per assignment. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a grade of "0" on the assignment.

Assessments

Resume and Cover Letter (20%)

- The purpose of this assignment is to create a professional resume' and demonstrate professional written communication.
- Students will complete a professional resume and cover letter designed to apply for a nursing position as a Graduate Nurse.
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Recommendation Letters (3) (20%)

- The purpose of this assignment is to obtain three recommendation letters. These can be from a teacher, coworker, or preceptor.
- Students will turn in the letters with the purpose of utilizing them for applying to positions as a Graduate Nurse.

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Application Dates and Application Completion (20%)

- The purpose of this assignment is to create a hub of information on Residency application open and closing deadlines.
- Students will complete a board with the information above. This will be available for all students to utilize.

ATI Capstone/Virtual ATI (10% each)

- Percentage of points earned out of 405 possible points. (See ATI letter to students posted in the LMS.)

ATI comprehensive Predictor Exam (10%)

- Based on completion of Practice exams, remediation, Comprehensive Predictor probability of passing earned on initial and retake exam (if necessary). Must score 95% probability of passing on Comprehensive Predictor. Students scoring below 95% probability will be required to retake the predictor exam.

Attendance at Live Review (10%)

- **ATI Live Review on campus**
- **Start : 4/28/2026 9:00 AM**
- **End 4/30/2026 4:00 PM**

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@ETAMU.edu.

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Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

BSN Student Guide

Specific information regarding the nursing program and current policies and procedures can be found in the current BSN Program Student Guidebook located in the Nursing Success Course in the LMS.

Students are responsible for reviewing, understanding, and complying with the policies and procedures provided in the student guidebook.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor(s) to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Class

1. Class Cancellation: In the event that a class is canceled, the student is expected to do the readings and complete the objectives for that day. The content will still be included on examinations. The material in this syllabus and dates identified in the Course Calendar are subject to change.
2. Class attendance is expected. The students should notify course coordinator in advance of any absence.
3. Exam dates are listed on the calendar. The student is expected to be present for in class exams. If the student will be absent, the course coordinator must be notified in 24 hours in advance. Failure to do so may result in the student receiving a zero for the missed exam or quiz. For illness or emergency situations, notify the faculty prior to exam start. **Email with no response from the faculty member is not considered notification.** Contact the Nursing office via phone for emergencies or less than 24 hours' notice.
For virtual exams, the exam must be completed and submitted within the window allowed in D2L and noted on the course calendar. Review the BSN Student Guide for the exam absence process.
4. As an adult learner and responsible professional, the student is responsible for reading and

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completing assignments prior to class and for being prepared to participate in discussions over the assigned material. It should not be expected that all material would be covered in class. Students are expected to come to class prepared.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.ETAMU.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#) [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University Velma K. Waters

Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@ETAMU.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from

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discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M- Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903- 886-5868 or 9-1-1.

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.ETAMU.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



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Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

The Board of Nursing requires applicants, students throughout the program, graduates and licensure renewals to answer questions as to their ability to be admitted to a nursing program, sit for the NCLEX-RN exam or be re-licensed. You are responsible for checking those questions to be sure you remain in compliance. Keep in mind that your fingerprints are on file with the BON so if you should ever be arrested, they would be notified. You should notify them proactively. The link is as follows: https://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure_eligibility.asp

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course Outline/ Calendar

PLEASE LOOK AT ATI SCHEDULE PROVIDED FOR GREATER DETAIL

WEEK/ Module	Start DATE	CONTENT	ATI Capstone/ Virtual	ASSIGNMENTS
1	1/12	Orientation Fundamentals	ATI Capstone Proctored Comprehensive Assessment A Fundamentals Open: Thursday 1/15 Assessment: Due 1/20/2026 by 2359 Post Assignment: Due 1/25/2026 by 2359	PRE ASSESSMENT AT HOME FRIDAY 1/16/2025 AT 0900. Resumes can be turned in early for feedback, before your interviews.
2	1/19	Pharmacology	Open: 1/22/2026 Assessment: 1/27/2026 by 2359 Post Assignment & assessment 2: 2/1/2026 by 2359	Resume & Cover Letter due 1/25/2026 by 2359
3	1/26	Medical Surgical	Open: 1/29/2026 Assessment: 2/3/2026 by 2359 Post Assignment & assessment: 2/8/2026 by 2359	Application dates Discussion Due 2/1/2026 by 2359
4	2/2	Maternal Newborn	Open: 2/5/2026 Assessment: 2/10/2026 by 2359 Post Assignment: 2/15/2026 by 2359	
5	2/9	Pediatrics	Open: 2/12/2026 Assessment: 2/17/2026 by 2359 Post Assignment: 2/22/2026 by 2359	Three Recommendation Letters due 2/15/2026 by 2359
6	2/16	Mental Health	Open: 2/19/2026 Assessment: 2/24/2026 by 2359 Post Assignment: 3/1/2026 by 2359	
7	2/23	Leadership/Community Health	Open: 2/26/2026 Assessment: 3/3/2026 by 2359 Post Assignment: 3/8/2026 by 2359	

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WEEK/ Module	Start DATE			ASSIGNMENTS
8	3/2		Post Capstone Comprehensive assessment B – FRIDAY MARCH 6, 2026 AT 0800, FROM HOME	
	3/9	Spring Break		
9	3/16		Comprehensive Predictor Exam (170 questions) in AH class time. Virtual ATI Begins Next week	Application Completion due 3/22 by 2359
10	3/23	NCLEX Strategies	Due: 3/29/2026	
11	3/30	Fundamentals	Due: 4/5/2026	
12	4/6	Pharmacology	Due: 4/12/2026	
13	4/13	Adult Medical Surgical	Due: 4/12/2026	
14	4/20	Maternal Newborn	Due: 4/28/2026	
15	4/27	Pediatrics & Mental Health	Due: 5/3/2027	4/28 to 4/30 Live Review on campus
16	5/4	Finals week	Comprehensive Predictor Retake May 4 0830 RM 294	Finals week

MOST IMPORTANT DATES YOU MUST BE AVAILABLE!

Date:	Description:
January 16, 2026	At home Exam 0900
March 6 , 2026	At home Exam 0900 (subject to change pending clinical or simulation scheduled)
March 16, 2026	On campus Comprehensive exam
4/28-4/30	On Campus Live Review
May 4, 2026	On campus Comprehensive retake

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Rubrics
Resume & Cover Letter

Criteria/Points	Excellent (4 pts)	Good (3.5 pts)	Fair (3 pts)	Unsatisfactory (0-1 pts)
Resume				
Function	Audience & purpose of the resume are strong & clear.	Audience & purpose are present but could be stronger.	Audience & purpose are less clear, & weak parts remain.	Audience & purpose are not clear.
Form & content	Format of the resume is clear. Each major section includes required information (objective statement, names, dates, locations, etc.).	Format is mostly clear. Each major section includes most of the required information (objective statement, names, dates, locations, etc.).	Format is somewhat clear. Each major section includes some of the required information (objective statement, names, dates, locations, etc.).	Format is unclear. Each major section includes little of the required information (objective statement, names, dates, locations, etc.).
Effectiveness	Resume is consistently professional in appearance, tone, & style.	Resume is mostly appropriate in appearance, tone, &/or style.	Resume is less than professional in appearance, tone, &/or style.	Resume is unprofessional in appearance, tone, or style.
Grammar & mechanics	Writer follows all guidelines for grammar & mechanics. Sentences clear, concise, & varied in structure.	Writer follows most guidelines for grammar &/or mechanics. Most sentences are clear, concise, &/or varied in structure.	Writer follows some guidelines for grammar &/or mechanics. Some sentences are clear, concise, &/or varied in structure.	Writer follows few guidelines for grammar &/or mechanics. Few sentences are clear, concise, &/or varied in structure.
Cover Letter				
Function	Audience & purpose of the cover letter are strong & clear.	Audience &/or purpose of the cover letter are present but could be stronger or clearer.	Audience &/or purpose are weak &/or unclear.	Audience & purpose are weak & unclear.
Form & content	Format of the letter is clear. Each major section includes all required information (address, date, salutation, body, closing, signature).	Format is mostly clear. Each major section includes most required information (address, date, salutation, body, closing, signature).	Format is confusing. Major sections are missing information (address, date, salutation, body, closing, signature).	Format is hard to see. Major sections are missing information (address, date, salutation, body, closing, signature).
Effectiveness	Letter is professional in appearance, tone, & style.	Letter is mostly professional in appearance, tone, &/or style.	Letter is somewhat professional in appearance, tone, &/or style.	Letter is unprofessional in appearance, tone, &/or style.

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Grammar & mechanics	Writer follows all guidelines for grammar & mechanics. Sentences clear, concise, & varied in structure.	Writer follows most guidelines for grammar &/or mechanics. Most sentences are clear, concise, &/or varied in structure.	Writer follows some guidelines for grammar &/or mechanics. Some sentences are clear, concise, &/or varied in structure.	Writer follows few guidelines for grammar &/or mechanics. Few sentences are clear, concise, &/or varied in structure.
Total				

