



NURS 3332 PROFESSIONAL NURSING FOUNDATIONS

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Brittany Starnes, MSN, RNC-NIC
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Introduces first-semester Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students to the legal, ethical, and professional standards that govern nursing practice. Explores the historical evolution of nursing, the scope of practice as defined by the Texas Nursing Practice Act (NPA), and the American Nurses Association (ANA) Scope and Standards of Practice. Emphasizes the critical importance of effective communication in all aspects of professional nursing, including patient advocacy, interprofessional collaboration, and legal documentation. Elicits a strong understanding of professional responsibilities and the ethical decision-making process essential for safe, competent, and compassionate patient care.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe the historical development of nursing as a profession and its current role in the healthcare system.
2. Analyze the key components of professional standards of practice as defined by the Texas Nursing Practice Act (NPA) and the American Nurses Association Scope and Standards of Practice. (PLO 2, 5; AACN Essentials 2, 9).

3. Identify the legal responsibilities and liabilities of the professional nurse, including concepts of negligence, malpractice, informed consent, and patient privacy (HIPAA). (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; AACN Essentials 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)
4. Apply ethical principles (e.g., beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, justice, fidelity, veracity) to common dilemmas encountered in nursing practice. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; AACN Essentials 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)
5. Demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal communication techniques essential for therapeutic nurse-patient relationships, interprofessional collaboration, and conflict resolution. (PLO 2, 4, 6; AACN Essentials 2, 6, 8)
6. Formulate a personal philosophy of nursing that integrates legal, ethical, and professional standards. (PLO 2, 5; AACN Essentials 1, 10)

Required Readings:

- **Nursing Management and Professional Concepts 2e**
by Ernstmeyer & Christman - Open Resources for Nursing (Open RN)
 - Chapter 5: Legal Implications
<https://wtcs.pressbooks.pub/nursingmpc/chapter/5-2-understanding-the-legal-system/>
 - Chapter 6: Ethical Practice
<https://wtcs.pressbooks.pub/nursingmpc/chapter/6-1-introduction/>

Required Resources:

Fundamentals of Nursing

<https://openstax.org/details/books/fundamentals-nursing>

- Texas Board of Nursing website: <http://www.bon.texas.gov/index.asp>
- American Nurses Association. (2025). *Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements*. American Nurses Association. (Available online at <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/>)
- Body Swaps App or website: [Body Swaps](#)

Optional Resources:

- American Nurses Association. (2021). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (4th ed.). American Nurses Association.
- American Nurses Association website: <http://www.nursingworld.org/>
- Purdue Owl Online Writing Lab website: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html
- Other online resources and articles as directed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The syllabus and schedule are subject to change.

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/Tips for Success in the Course

- Logging into the course website and email regularly for faculty communication (especially the night before class/clinical)
- 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.
- Attendance at all class meetings, clinical, seminars and simulations
- Review and remediation of examinations.

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 = 59% or below

A minimum grade of 75% is required to pass the course. All assignments must be completed and submitted before final grades will be released.

ASSESSMENTS

Assignment	%	SLO
• NGN Quizzes	10%	1,2,3,4,5,6
• Final Exam	20%	1,2,3,4,5,6
• Ethical Decision-Making Presentation 	15%	3,6
• SBAR Assignment	10%	2,3,6
• Communication Scenarios & in class Activities	30%	2,3

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• Reflective Journaling & Philosophy	15%	2,3
 = Group assignment	Total	100%

ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTIONS

- **NGN Quizzes (10%)**
 - Covering legal, ethical, and professional concepts.
 - These quizzes can be scheduled or presented in class.
- **Final Exam (20%)**
 - The Final Exam will be a comprehensive exam, covering the entire course content.
- **Ethical Decision-Making Presentation (15%)**
 - Analyze ethical dilemmas and propose solutions based on ethical frameworks and legal principles.
- **SBAR Assignment (10%)**
 - Demonstrate accurate intraprofessional communication through SBAR.
- **Communication Simulation & in class activities (30%)**
 - Demonstrate therapeutic communication techniques and professional interaction.
 - Activities done in class – absence will result in no grade.
- **Reflective Journaling & Philosophy (15%)**
 - Engage in thoughtful reflection on course topics to include in a personal philosophy of nursing statement.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by EastTexas 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

The syllabus and schedule are subject to change.

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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@tamuc.edu.

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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Communication between faculty and students is important for success. If a face-to-face meeting is desired, an appointment should be made in advance. Students will be treated with respect and are expected to communicate likewise.

The nursing department faculty and staff follow and expect students to follow the chain of command in all academic matters. If problems arise in a course, the student should first contact the instructor, then proceed as needed to the course coordinator, then the program coordinator, then the department head for nursing, and finally the college dean.

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Assignment Submissions:

All class and clinical assignments must be submitted on time. If an extension is needed, students must request the extension before the posted due date/time. An assignment extension request will be approved or denied 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 third day, the grade will be assigned as 0%. Communication on these matters is the student's responsibility. Multiple instances of late clinical

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assignments will result in receipt of a Student Performance and Behaviors Evaluation Form and, possibly, failure of clinical/course.

All documents submitted online are to be in .docx, .rtf, or .pdf format. No other formats will be accepted (JPEG, GIF, 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.

BSN Program Student Guidebook

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.

Classroom Policies

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 in each course syllabus, and the student is expected to be present for exams. In the event that the student will be absent, the course coordinator must be notified in advance. Failure to do so may result in the student receiving a zero for the missed exam or quiz. 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 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.

Group Work:

All members of the group will receive the same grade on any group work. However, a student can be removed from his/her team if the other students in the group come to the instructor and report that a student is not doing his/her fair share of the work. If that happens, the instructor will notify the student in writing. The student will then be responsible for doing the assignment on his/her own. It is expected that the group will make the attempt to resolve the situation within the group before instructor intervention.

Syllabus Change Policy

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

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Class Conduct

Turn off or silence, and put away all electronic devices before entering the classroom, lab, sim hospital, or clinical setting. No obscene or vulgar language will be permitted. Faculty reserve the right to drop a student for violations of any student conduct rules listed in the student guide.

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](https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-code-of-conduct/).

<https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-code-of-conduct/>

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](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

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](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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

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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 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.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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

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.



The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

DEPARTMENT OR ACCREDITING AGENCY REQUIRED CONTENT

The East Texas A&M University School of Nursing has full approval by the [Texas Board of Nursing](#).

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460

Austin, TX 78701-3944

512.305.7400

webmaster@bon.texas.gov

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The baccalaureate degree program in nursing and the master's degree program in nursing at East Texas A&M University are accredited by the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education](#).

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

655 K Street NW, Suite 750

Washington, DC 20001

202.887.6791

Assignment Rubrics

Ethical Dilemma Presentation Rubric

Criteria	Excellent 8 points	Good 7 points	Fair 6 points	Poor 1 point
Introduction Identifies common ethical issues in a specific patient population	Presents >5 common ethical issues associated with the assigned patient population;	Presents 4 common ethical issues associated with the assigned patient population;	Presents 3 common ethical issues associated with the assigned patient population;	Presents 2 common ethical issues associated with the assigned patient population;
Ethical dilemma Describes an ethical dilemma for a simulated patient including: 1. The setting in which the ethical issue occurred. 2. The relevant facts related to the issue. 3. The stakeholders involved in the ethical issue.	Thoroughly describes an ethical dilemma for a simulated patient including all criteria.	Adequately describes an ethical dilemma for a simulated patient including all of criteria.	Partially describes an ethical dilemma for a simulated patient including 2 of 3 criteria.	Addresses 1 of 3 criteria.
Ethical decision-making model 1. Explains the steps of the model; 2. Identifies the recommended use of the model. 3. Cites the source of the model.	Thoroughly addresses all criteria	Adequately addresses all criteria	Partially addresses 2 of 3 criteria	Addresses 1 of 3 criteria.

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Criteria	Excellent 8 points	Good 7 points	Fair 6 points	Poor 1 point
Decision-making process 1. Guides the class through each step of the model to reach a final class decision; 2. Shares how the used the model to reach a group decision. 3. Each group member participates in presentation.	Thoroughly meets all criteria	Adequately meets all criteria	Partially addresses 2 of 3 criteria	Addresses 1 of 3 criteria.
Conclusion		Presents the decision made by the group by describing each step of the model with rationales.		Does not present the decision made by the group by describing each step of the model with rationales.
Documentation & Visual Aids - slides, handouts, reference list	Provides a reference list in APA 7th ed. format and other visual aids, hand-outs, websites, resources pertinent to the population.	Provides a reference list in APA 7th ed. format.	Provides a reference list.	Does not provide a reference list.
			Total	/ 48

NURS 3332 Course Calendar Spring 2026		
Week Date/Time	Content	Assignments/Due Date
8/25/2026	Course Overview Module 1: Chapter 1: Introduction to Professional Nursing & Historical Context Chapter 3: healthcare Delivery Systems - Defining Professional Nursing: Roles, Responsibilities, and Attributes - Historical Evolution of Nursing: Key Figures and Milestones - Nursing as a Profession vs. Occupation - Introduction to the Healthcare System *Privilege walk	

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NURS 3332 Course Calendar Spring 2026		
Week Date/Time	Content	Assignments/Due Date
9/1/2026	Module 2: Chapter 16: Legal and ethical considerations - Legal Foundations of Nursing Practice in Texas - The Texas Nursing Practice Act (NPA): Purpose, Scope, and Key Provisions - Texas Board of Nursing (BON): Functions, Licensure, and Disciplinary Process <i>Communication Focus: Importance of clear, accurate communication in obtaining informed consent and preventing legal issues.</i> *Line Debate	Reflective Journal #1 Due: 9/7 by 2359
9/8/2026	Module 2: Legal Foundations of Nursing Practice in Texas (continued) - Legal Concepts: Negligence, Malpractice, Assault, Battery, False Imprisonment - Informed Consent: Elements, Nurse's Role, and Special Considerations - Patient Rights and Responsibilities <i>Communication Focus: Importance of clear, accurate communication in obtaining informed consent and preventing legal issues.</i>	Quiz #1 Due: 9/14 by 2359
9/15/2026	Module 3: Ethical Principles and Decision-Making in Nursing - Introduction to Ethics and Morality in Nursing - Core Ethical Principles: Beneficence, Non-maleficence, Autonomy, Justice, Fidelity, Veracity - Codes of Ethics for Nurses (e.g., ANA Code of Ethics) - Ethical Decision-Making Models and Frameworks <i>Communication Focus: Ethical communication, truth-telling, maintaining confidentiality, and facilitating patient autonomy through effective dialogue.</i>	Ethical Dilemma Presentations will be due and presented next week during class. Due 9/21 by 2359

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NURS 3332 Course Calendar Spring 2026		
Week Date/Time	Content	Assignments/Due Date
9/22/2026	Module 3: Ethical Principles and Decision-Making in Nursing (continued) - Common Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing Practice (e.g., end-of-life care, resource allocation, patient refusal of treatment) <i>Communication Focus: Ethical communication, truth-telling, maintaining confidentiality, and facilitating patient autonomy through effective dialogue.</i>	Ethical Dilemma Group Presentations in class. Dress in Business Casual or scrubs
9/29/2026	Module 4: Professional Standards and Accountability - Professional Nursing Organizations (e.g., ANA, TNA) and their Role - Nursing Standards of Care: Definition, Purpose, and Application <i>Communication Focus: Professional communication with colleagues, supervisors, and other healthcare team members; giving and receiving constructive feedback.</i>	
10/6/2026	Module 4: Professional Standards and Accountability (continued) - Accountability and Responsibility in Nursing Practice - Delegation and Supervision: Legal and Ethical Considerations in Texas <i>Communication Focus: Professional communication with colleagues, supervisors, and other healthcare team members; giving and receiving constructive feedback.</i>	Reflective Journal #2 Due: 10/12 by 2359
10/13/2026	Module 5: Communication as a Cornerstone of Professional Practice Chapter 2 - Therapeutic Communication Techniques: Active Listening, Empathy, Presence - Barriers to Effective Communication and Strategies to Overcome Them	Quiz #2 Due: 10/19 by 2359

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NURS 3332 Course Calendar Spring 2026		
Week Date/Time	Content	Assignments/Due Date
	<i>Communication Focus: The legal and ethical imperative of clear, concise, and accurate documentation; communication in crises.</i>	
10/20/2026	Module 5: Communication as a Cornerstone of Professional Practice (continued) - Interprofessional Communication and Collaboration (SBAR, TeamSTEPPS) - Conflict Resolution and Assertiveness in Nursing <i>Communication Focus: The legal and ethical imperative of clear, concise, and accurate documentation; communication in crises.</i>	SBAR Discussion Due: 10/26 by 2359
10/27/2026	Module 5: Chapter 5: Cultural Competence Communication as a Cornerstone of Professional Practice (continued) - Communicating with Diverse Populations: Cultural Competence and Sensitivity - Documentation: Legal and Ethical Implications of Accurate and Timely Documentation (Electronic Health Records - EHRs) <i>Communication Focus: The legal and ethical imperative of clear, concise, and accurate documentation; communication in crises.</i>	Reflective Journal #3 Due: 10/12 by 2359
11/3/2026	Module 6: Chapter 6: Chapter 17: Patient Advocacy and Special Legal/Ethical Topics - The Nurse as Patient Advocate: Roles and Responsibilities - Reporting Obligations: Child Abuse, Elder Abuse, Communicable Diseases <i>Communication Focus: Advocating for vulnerable populations through effective</i>	Last day to drop 3/27/2026 (no refund)

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NURS 3332 Course Calendar Spring 2026		
Week Date/Time	Content	Assignments/Due Date
	<i>communication; communicating concerns about unsafe practices.</i>	
11/10/2026	Module 6: Patient Advocacy and Special Legal/Ethical Topics (continued) • Workplace Violence and Bullying: Legal and Ethical Considerations • Substance Use Disorder in Nursing: Impaired Practice and Reporting • Communication Focus: Advocating for vulnerable populations through effective communication; communicating concerns about unsafe practices.	Quiz #3 Due: 11/16 by 2359
11/17/2026	Module 7: Professional Development and Future Directions (Weeks 13-14) • Lifelong Learning and Continuing Education Requirements for Texas Nurses • Professional Boundaries and Self-Care • <i>Communication Focus: Communicating career goals, networking, and professional presentation.</i>	
11/24/2026	Module 7: Professional Development and Future Directions (continued) • The Future of Nursing: Trends and Challenges • Developing a Personal Philosophy of Nursing • <i>Communication Focus: Communicating career goals, networking, and professional presentation.</i>	Reflective Journal #4 Due: by 2359
12/1/2026	Course Review	
Finals week (online)	Final Exam	Opens 12/1 0800 & Closes 12/8 at 2359

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