



Nursing

EAST TEXAS A&M

NURS 4343 Nursing Research for the RN COURSE SYLLABUS Fall I 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Faculty: Rhonda Gatti

Office Location: Online by appointment

Office Hours: contact via email

Office Phone: 903-886-5315

University Email Address: Rhonda.Gatti@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Examines and interprets basic research concepts; Accesses and analyzes nursing research report; Integrates best evidence with clinician expertise and patient preferences and values; Develops and answers a PICOT question using a 7-step problem-solving approach (Melnik, Fineout-Overhold, Stillwell, & Williamson, 2010).

Student Learning Outcomes (Competencies)

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

1. Describe the role of research in evidence-based nursing practice (PLO 1; AACN Essentials 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10)
2. Identify qualitative and quantitative approaches to research in nursing. (PLO 1, 2; AACN Essentials 1, 4, 8)
3. Discuss legal and ethical issues related to nursing research. (PLO 5; AACN Essentials 4, 9)
4. Critique evidence from selected research-based publications. (PLO 1, 2; AACN Essentials 1, 2, 4, 8)
5. Apply the 7-step EBP process to a pertinent clinical question. (PLO 1, 2, 5; AACN Essentials 1, 2, 4, 8)

Textbook Required

Roche, D., & Bennett, C. L. (2024). Notes on... nursing research. Wiley-Blackwell.
Available online at the University library:

https://tamuc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01TEXAM_COM/1n5rkou/alma991006904896106041

Required Resources:

- Melnyk, B. M., Fineout-Overholt, E., Stillwell, S. B., & Williamson, K. M. (2009). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE Step by Step: Igniting a Spirit of Inquiry: An Essential Foundation for Evidence-Based Practice. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 109(11), 49–52. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25734232>
- Melnyk, B. M., Fineout-Overholt, E., Stillwell, S. B., & Williamson, K. M. (2010). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE Step by Step: The Seven Steps of EvidenceBased Practice. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 110(1), 51–53. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25734261>
- Stillwell, S. B., Fineout-Overholt, E., Melnyk, B. M., & Williamson, K. M. (2010). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE Step by Step: Asking the Clinical Question: A Key Step in Evidence-Based Practice. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 110(3), 58–61. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25734323>
- Stillwell, S. B., Fineout-Overholt, E., Melnyk, B. M., & Williamson, K. M. (2010). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE Step by Step: Searching for the Evidence. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 110(5), 41–47. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25684570>
- Fineout-Overholt, E., Melnyk, B. M., Stillwell, S. B., & Williamson, K. M. (2010). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE Step by Step: Critical Appraisal of the Evidence: Part I. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 110(7), 47–52. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25684627>
- Fineout-Overholt, E., Melnyk, B. M., Stillwell, S. B., & Williamson, K. M. (2010). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE Step by Step: Critical Appraisal of the Evidence: Part II: Digging deeper—examining the “keeper” studies. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 110(9), 41–48. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27867477>
- Fineout-Overholt, E., Melnyk, B. M., Stillwell, S. B., & Williamson, K. M. (2010). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE Step by Step: Critical Appraisal of the Evidence: Part III. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 110(11), 43–51. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25734401>
- Fineout-Overholt, E., Williamson, K. M., Gallagher-Ford, L., Melnyk, B. M., & Stillwell, S. B. (2011). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE Step by Step: Following the Evidence: Planning for Sustainable Change. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 111(1), 54– 60. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25769681>
- Gallagher-Ford, L., Fineout-Overholt, E., Melnyk, B. M., & Stillwell, S. B. (2011). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE Step by Step: Implementing an Evidence-Based Practice Change. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 111(3), 54–60. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23046292>
- NURS 4343 Nursing Research for the RN 3 The syllabus/schedule are subject to change. Gallagher-Ford, L., Fineout-Overholt, E., Melnyk, B. M., & Stillwell, S. B. (2011). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE Step by Step: Rolling Out the Rapid Response Team. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 111(5), 42–47. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23046651>
- Fineout-Overholt, E., Gallagher-Ford, L., Melnyk, B. M., & Stillwell, S. B. (2011). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE Step by Step: Evaluating and Disseminating the Impact of an Evidence-Based Intervention: Show and Tell. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 111(7), 56–59. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43821430>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Melnyk, B. M., Fineout-Overholt, E., Gallagher-Ford, L., & Stillwell, S. B. (2011). EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE, Step by Step: Sustaining Evidence-Based Practice Through Organizational Policies and an Innovative Model. The American Journal of Nursing, 111(9), 57–60. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23046778>

Optional Resources:

- Purdue Owl Online Writing Lab website: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html
- Other online resources and articles as directed.

Regular and Substantive Course Interaction

As a general guide, students enrolled in a three-semester hour course should spend one hour engaged in instructional activities and two to three hours on out-of-class work per week in a traditional semester. Students are expected to double this effort of engagement given that this course is being delivered in a seven-week term. Educational activities in this course are designed to ensure regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty to ensure that students can demonstrate competency.

To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) should be completed. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance.

Dropping the Course Due to Failure

Students are NOT allowed to drop a course due to failure in the course. In the event a student does not make 80% or higher on a posttest or culminating project by the third attempt, the student is not allowed to drop the course due to failure. The student is also ineligible to accelerate or re-enroll/re-take the course in the current term.

To drop a course, students must have passing grades in the course or have not attempted any assignments in the course. Please reach out to an academic advisor to drop a course.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

Instructional Methods

This course is an online course. To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) must be completed by the due date specified. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance or support.

CWID and Password

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.

Technology-Related Issues

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, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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 the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

This is an online course; therefore, expect most communication to be online as well. If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). **You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication.** The instructor will make every effort to respond to emails within 24 provided the correspondence follows the requirements listed below. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line (ex. EDCB 517 – Posttest)
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

RESPONSE TIME & GRADING TIME IN CBE COURSES

Instructors for competency-based education courses are expected to respond to students in 24 hours. If you are not able to reach your instructor, please reach out to your advisor for help. The grading of assignments in courses will be done in a timely manner, but grading responses will not be returned in 24 hours.

ACCELERATION IN CBE COURSES

Students enrolled in competency-based education courses in the College of Innovation and Design are permitted to accelerate from one CBE course to another during a seven-week academic term under certain conditions. The request to accelerate from one course to another must be initiated by the student upon successful completion of currently enrolled CBE courses. Students are responsible for maintaining communication with faculty and their assigned advisor(s) throughout the acceleration process. Students who fail a course or who drop/withdraw from a CBE course are not eligible for acceleration. Student may only request permission to accelerate in one course at a time. **Request to accelerate is initiated and completed by 5:00 pm CST on the fifth Friday of a seven-week academic term.**

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Acceleration Process:

1. Student successfully completes all required coursework in their CBE courses(s) with a grade of "A" or "B."
2. Student receives emailed verification from the assigned instructor that the course has been satisfactorily completed (Grade of A or B only).
3. Student contacts assigned advisor to provide proof of completion and discuss eligibility for acceleration into another course.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**Syllabus Change Policy**

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

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all 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](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

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

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AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources

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: <https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-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 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 ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

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 <https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center>

Mental Health and Well-Being

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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.



Department Regulatory and Accrediting Agency Information

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

Texas Board of Nursing
1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 10-200
Austin, TX 78701
P: (512) 305-7400; F: (512) 305-7401

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

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

Requirement for Successfully Passing Course

Students must achieve 80% or higher for **every** posttest **and** culminating project to demonstrate mastery of all competencies and pass the course.

Pretest

The purpose of the pretest is to provide students with a baseline understanding of your knowledge in the competency. Pretests are taken once and should be completed upon the first couple of days of a CBE academic term or entry into a course if a student is an accelerator. The pretest is required before you begin studying course materials. A passing score on the pretest does NOT provide permission to skip required assignments in the course. The grade on the pretest does **not** count in the final grade for this course.

Posttest

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At the end of a module or course is a comprehensive exam that assesses student knowledge and understanding of major concepts, theories, processes, etc., in the module or the course. A **score of 80% or higher is required** to demonstrate mastery of the competency. If a student scores less than 80% on a posttest, the student will have an opportunity to review the material and retake the posttest two additional times. Students who fail the posttest should review feedback from the instructor before reattempting the posttest on another attempt. If the posttest score is less than 80% within three attempts, students will receive a grade of “F” in the course and will be required to retake the course in the new term.

Culminating Project

The final project in the course assesses your knowledge of terms and the application of concepts presented in this course. A **score of 80% or higher is required** to demonstrate mastery of each competency. If students score less than 80% on the culminating project, they will have an opportunity to review the material and resubmit the project up to two additional times. If the culminating project is less than 80% within three attempts, students will receive a grade of F in the course and will be required to retake the course in the new term. **If you want feedback for revisions, submit by the end of week 6. Culminating projects have a due date: Last day of week 7, Friday by 11:59 PM CST.**

GRADING

A score of 80% or higher on the Culminating Project and all Posttests is required to demonstrate mastery of the competencies and receive credit for the course. The following items will be used to calculate the final grade in the course.

Assignment	Points	Weight
Module Pretests*	210 points total	0%
Module 1 Posttest	100 points	10%
Module 2 Posttest	100 points	10%
Module 3 Posttest	100 points	10%
Module 4 Posttest	100 points	10%
Module 5 Posttest	100 points	10%
Culminating Project	100 points	50%
Total	625 points	100%

*Module Pretests are required but not included in the calculation of final grade.

Grading Scale

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

F = 79% or Below

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Course Pacing Guide:

Module 1: The Role of Nursing Research – An Overview

- Recommended completion time 1 week

Module 2: Research Methodologies

- Recommended completion time 1 week

Module 3: Legal & Ethical Issues

- Recommended completion time 1 week

Module 4: Searching for & Critiquing Evidence

- Recommended completion time 1 week

Module 5: Evidence-Based Practice

- Recommended completion time 1 week

Culminating Project

- Recommended completion time 1 – 2 weeks