



Nursing

EAST TEXAS A&M

NURS 4460.01 Rural and Community Health Nursing for the RN COURSE SYLLABUS Fall I 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Faculty: Tricia Otts, MSN, RN
Office Location: Online by appointment
Office Hours: contact via email
Office Phone: 903-886-5315
University Email Address: Patricia.Otts@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course explores rural community health nursing, with an emphasis on historical development, philosophy, health care systems, epidemiology, individuals, families, and specific aggregate groups. Students will apply the nursing process in rural and suburban community settings to promote, maintain, and restore health. The course focuses on addressing population health needs while incorporating transcultural nursing concepts and considering the social determinants of health across various care delivery settings. Students will examine the diverse roles of the community and public health nurse and will complete a rural community assessment by applying research and data processing skills.

Student Learning Outcomes

Completion of this course provides the student with the knowledge to:

- Examine the development and role of public health, rural health, community health, community-based nursing, social determinants of health, and the transformation of the health care system domestically and globally, applying ethical theories, principles, laws, and government regulations inherent in the core functions of population and community health nursing practice.
[AACN Essentials 1, 2, 3.1 (a, c, d, e, h, i); 3.3 (b); 3.4 (e); 3.5 (c), 4, 5, 7, 9]
- Analyze relationships between epidemiological principles and levels of prevention in the practice of population and community health nursing.
[AACN Essentials 3.1(b, c, e); 3.3 (b), 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]
- Evaluate the impact of primary health care, health promotion and disease prevention, social determinants of health, and community resources on the health needs of individuals, families, aggregates, communities, and cities.
[AACN Essentials Domains 2, 3.1(a, b, c, e); 3.2(a, d, e)]

- Collaborate with community organizations to identify the role of the community health nurse in addressing basic needs, preparing for, and responding to simulated disasters and threats to the health and welfare of the community members.
[AACN Essentials 3.2 (a, h); 3.6 (a, b, c, d, e), 6]

Required Textbook and Learning Materials:

This course has been designed using Open Educational Resources (OER) and/or materials that are available through the [Waters Library](#). All materials are embedded within the course or are accessible via the internet or accessible through the Waters Library resource portal. After taking the pretest, students are encouraged to bookmark, download, or save materials provided via the internet for use with assignments and projects in this class.

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.**

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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*	225 points total	0%
Module 1 Posttest	100 points	15%
Module 2 Posttest	100 points	15%
Module 3 Posttest	100 points	15%
Module 4 Posttest	100 points	25%
Culminating Project	100 points	30%
Total	500 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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

NURS 4460 Rural and Community Health Nursing for the RN
COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR
 Suggested Schedule

Module	Competency	Required Activities
1	Examine the development and role of public health, rural health, community health, community-based nursing, social determinates of health, and the transformation of the health care system domestically and globally applying ethical theories, principles, laws, and government regulations inherent in the core functions of population and community health nursing practice.	• Complete Module 1 Pretest Quiz (once completed, the module contents will open) • Review Module 1 Contents • Complete Module 1 Posttest – Must make 80% or higher to successfully pass the course. Three attempts allowed. Pacing Guide: Recommend completion by end of week 1
2	Analyze relationships between epidemiological principles and levels of prevention in the practice of population and community health nursing.	• Complete Module 2 Pretest Quiz (once completed, the module contents will open) • Review Module 2 Contents • Complete Module 2 Posttest – Must make 80% or higher to successfully pass the course. Three attempts allowed. Pacing Guide: Recommend completion by end of week 2
3	Evaluate the impact of primary health care, health promotion and disease prevention, social determinants of health, and community resources on the health needs of individuals, families, aggregates, communities and cities.	• Complete Module 3 Pretest Quiz (once completed, the module contents will open) • Review Module 3 Contents • Complete Module 3 Posttest – Must make 80% or higher to successfully pass the course. Three attempts allowed. Pacing Guide: Recommend completion by end of week 3
4	Collaborate with community organizations to identify the role of the community health nurse in addressing basic needs, preparing for, and responding to simulated disasters and threats to the health and welfare of the community members.	• Complete Module 4 Pretest Quiz (once completed, the module contents will open) • Review Module 4 Contents • Complete Module 4 Posttest – Must make 80% or higher to

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

		successfully pass the course. Three attempts allowed. NOTE: The posttest assignment for module 4 is a written assignment that demonstrates theory application of specific course content. This assignment will likely take several hours of research and work to complete. Please plan accordingly. Pacing Guide: Recommend completion by end of week 5
Culminating Project	Objective: Report a comprehensive assessment of a designated community including a windshield survey video, a description of the community, interviews, a health problem, goals, and nursing interventions.	• Required – Must score 80% or higher to successfully pass the course. • Three attempts allowed NOTE: The culminating project is designed for the learner to demonstrate theory application of overall course content. There are multiple components to the assignment including video, interviews, and a written paper or project presentation. This assignment is labor intensive and will require a minimum of 10 – 12 hours to successfully complete. Please plan accordingly. Pacing Guide: Recommend completion by end of week 7

- All assignments must be submitted by 11:59PM/CST on the Friday of Week 7 of the term.
- A score of 80% or higher on the Culminating Project and all Posttests is required to demonstrate competency and receive credit for the course.
- **Tip:** After a failed attempt at a posttest or the culminating project, review feedback provided by your instructor and/or reach out to your instructor with questions before moving to the next attempt.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.