



**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
RN TO BSN COMPLETION PROGRAM
NUR 4310 Special Topics in Nursing
Summer 2025**

SEMESTER HOURS: Three (3) Credits (11 Week Semester) Synchronous

CONTACT HOURS: 4.4 Clock Hours/Week

CLINICAL HOURS: N/A

PREREQUISITES: Admission to the RN to BSN Completion Program

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for registered nurses (RNs) pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). It focuses on the transition from ADN to BSN practice, emphasizing professional identity, evidence-based care, leadership, ethics, cultural competence, and health policy. Students will examine how BSN-level competencies influence patient care outcomes and healthcare systems through self-reflection, scholarly work, and practical assignments.

FACULTY INFORMATION:

Name: Veronica Arredondo, DNP RN

Office Hours: Hours available via e-mail: Monday-Friday 0800-1800

Hours available via phone office/home/cell: 0800-1800

Phone Number: 432-978-7814

University E-mail: veronica.arredondo@sulross.edu

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Integrate BSN competencies into their current nursing practice.
2. Analyze professional roles and responsibilities in diverse settings.
3. Apply nursing theory and evidence-based practice to improve patient outcomes.
4. Demonstrate leadership, communication, and collaboration skills.
5. Reflect on personal and professional growth through academic progression.

REQUIRED TEXT: Resource Links: OER (Open Education Resources) [Transitions-to-professional-nursing1\(1\).pdf](#)

STUDENT/FACULTY EXPECTATIONS IN THE TEACHING/LEARNING PROCESS

Learning is a shared endeavor based upon respectful and collaborative relationships between students and faculty. The learning activities designed for this course were developed based upon the following:

1. As adult learners we are partners in learning.
2. Faculty members serve as a mentor, resource, guide, or coach and professional peer.
3. Our work and life experiences differ and serve to enrich our individual and mutual learning.



4. Each member of the class is committed to preparing for and successfully completing class learning activities.
5. Each member of the class will organize their time, learning goals, work schedules and family arrangements to fully participate in the course and assignment activities.
6. Each member of the class is able to use computer technology and access resources via the Internet and other mobile technologies as needed for this and other courses.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Announcements** – Check announcements each time you log onto the course.
- **Course E-mail** – All e-mail communication must be through your Sul Ross e-mail account. Check Sul Ross e-mail frequently for communications and make sure your email address is current. Faculty will respond to inquiries and comments within 24 hours Monday – Friday.
- **Responses to e-mails and course postings** – Please respond to faculty requests and/or communications within 24 hours. Use course or Sul Ross e-mail and if not available, mobile phone or texting between the hours of 9 am and 6 pm if possible.
- **Assignments** – Assignments will be reviewed and returned with feedback/grade within 4 days of submission.
- **Writing and use of APA format** – All written assignments and discussion board postings will be submitted using the American Psychological Association (APA) Guidelines, as indicated by faculty.
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01>

PARTICIPATION:

- Your participation is expected.
- Readings and learning activities relevant to the weekly topic are identified in the course schedule and modules.
- Scholarly and knowledgeable participation requires that you read your assigned readings prior to joining the class discussions.
- An online course requires participation in all areas for accurate evaluation of performance including responding the faculty requests or communications.
- If you have an emergency and cannot attend a class meeting or complete an assignment by the due date, you must contact your faculty by phone, e-mail, or text as soon as possible and make arrangements to make up the assignments.
- Blackboard course platforms have a tracking feature. This feature quantifies how often and when students are active in the course and also provides information if the student has accessed different pages of the course. The Blackboard tracking function may be utilized to verify student online participation.

COURSE LEARNING ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS, and GRADING:

LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Discussions

Students will engage in weekly discussion board activities responding to prompts designed to connect course concepts with personal nursing experience and professional growth.



Journals

These reflections will encourage you to think critically about your transition from RN to BSN, and how the course topic such as leadership, ethics, communication, and evidence-based practice relates to your current or future nursing role.

Final Project

The final project is a professional PowerPoint presentation in which you propose an evidence-based improvement to nursing practice in your current or past work setting. This project will showcase your ability to think critically, apply leadership concepts, integrate evidence, and demonstrate your development as a BSN-prepared nurse.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING:

1. Evaluation of student performance is based on evidence of achievement of course objectives. Students are graded on their participation and completion of assigned work that may include discussion boards, online reflections and observations, clinical performance when applicable, knowledge and comprehension of reading assignments and completion of course assignments. Criteria for each course activity and assignments include grading rubrics are delineated either in the syllabus or in the modules.
2. **Summary of Measures for Evaluations:**
The course grade is based on (brief description of activities, etc. that are measured for your course.

Summary of Measure for Evaluation:

<u>Course Requirements</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Discussion Boards	30%
Journals	30%
Final Project	40%
Total Points	100%

3. **Calculation of Final Grade:** The final grade is derived as a summary of the points delineated on specific rubrics for the assignments and participation.

Grading Scale

Grading Scale

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 75-79

F = <75

POLICIES FOR EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS:



Online testing/Assessments: ADD necessary information if needed

Missed Examinations and Makeup Examinations: Faculty members must be informed immediately when a student is aware that an examination will be missed. Make-up should occur within a week of the scheduled examination as agreed on between the faculty and student. Should scheduling conflicts and/or family emergencies arise, students should contact faculty by phone, e-mail, or text as soon as possible. If students have spoken with faculty and an agreement is reached, late make-up exams can be arranged without penalty.

Late and Make-up Assignments: To achieve the designated points for an assignment, the assignment must be submitted at or before the scheduled date and time. Late assignments, class participation grades, written documents or presentations will result in the student receiving a zero for the assignment. It is expected that the student will request assistance to understand whatever is unclear; thus, taking an important step in assuming responsibility for individual learning. Should scheduling conflicts and/or family emergencies arise, student should contact faculty by phone, e-mail, or text as soon as possible. If students have spoken with faculty and an agreement is reached, late make-up assignments can be arranged without penalty.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students recognize the responsibilities and opportunities for contributing to their digital communities.

1.2. Digital Citizen Students recognize the responsibilities and opportunities for contributing to their digital communities. Students:

- 1.2.a. Manage their digital identity and understand the lasting impact of their online behaviors on themselves and others and make safe, legal and ethical decisions in the digital world.
- 1.2.b. Demonstrate empathetic, inclusive interactions online and use technology to responsibly contribute to their communities.
- 1.2.c. Safeguard their well-being by being intentional about what they do online and how much time they spend online.
- 1.2.d. Take action to protect their digital privacy on devices and manage their personal data and security while online.

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TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT:



Who should I contact?

Online Support Desk

☎ 888.837.6055

✉ blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

Available: 24/7

- Logging into Blackboard
- Questions about Blackboard tools/software
- Trouble with tests/quizzes/assignments
- Error messages on Blackboard
- Online course video problems

Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC)

☎ 432.837.8888

✉ ltac@sulross.edu

Available: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Logging into your mySRSU/Banner/SRSU email
- Campus computer, computer lab, or campus Wi-Fi issues
- Security concerns with your SRSU or VPN account
- Questions about Office 365 or OneDrive



COURSE SCHEDULE: (This schedule is subject to change by faculty.)

NUR 4310 – Special Topics in Nursing

Week	Topics / Objectives	Required Readings	Learning Activities
1	Professional Nursing Practice - Define professional nursing. - Explore the importance of BSN education.	Chapter 1: Professional Nursing Practice	Introduction post
2	Accountability and Autonomy - Examine nurse autonomy and accountability. - Analyze ANA Standards and Code of Ethics.	Chapter 1: Accountability & Autonomy	Discussion Board: Ethical dilemmas you have encountered
3	Nursing Philosophy and Professional Development - Develop a personal nursing philosophy. - Set goals for professional growth.	Chapter 2: Nursing Philosophy	Discussion Board: Share your nursing philosophy
4	Communication in Nursing - Apply effective communication strategies. - Discuss interprofessional communication.	Chapter 3: Interprofessional Communication	Discussion Board: Communication and patient outcomes Reflection Journal: Interprofessional Encounter Reflection
5	Collaboration and Critical Thinking - Evaluate collaboration in healthcare teams. - Use critical thinking in clinical decision-making.	Chapter 3: Collaboration & Critical Thinking	Discussion Board: Successful collaboration experience
6	Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) - Define EBP and its role in nursing. - Identify ways to integrate research into care.	Chapter 3: Evidence-Based Practice	Discussion Board: Share an EBP example from your work
7	Leadership in Nursing - Assess leadership qualities. - Explore leadership roles and growth opportunities.	Chapter 4: Leadership in Nursing	Discussion Board: Leadership qualities in nursing Reflection Journal: SMART Leadership Goal Plan

8	Nursing Theory - Describe major nursing theories. - Apply a nursing theory to clinical practice.	Chapter 5: Nursing Theory	Discussion Board: Discuss nursing theories you relate to Reflection Journal: Nursing Theory Application
9	Cultural Competence and Diversity - Assess cultural awareness in care delivery. - Reflect on challenges of culturally responsive nursing.	Chapters 3 & 6: Cultural Competence and Professional Organizations	Discussion Board: Caring for diverse populations Reflection Journal: Cultural Competence Self-Assessment
10	Professional Organizations and Advocacy - Explore major nursing organizations. - Discuss nursing advocacy and policy roles.	Chapter 6: Professional Organizations	Discussion Board: Share a nursing advocacy experience
11	Final Project Present your Project proposal.	Review all chapters	Final Project: Project Proposal PowerPoint

ADA Statement

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's



Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu or contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website.

Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Libraries

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources *unless permission is expressly given* for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

Classroom Climate of Respect



Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Supportive Statement

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

COURSE CONTENT LINKAGE WITH STATE AND NATIONAL GUIDELINES:

1. Applicable Differentiated Essential Competencies (DEC's) in this course
 2. Applicable Baccalaureate Essentials in this course.
 3. Applicable QSEN Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes (KSA's) in this course.
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