This course supports the assessments for Essentials of Advanced Nursing Practice Field Experience. The course covers 2 competencies and represents 2 competency units.

**Introduction**

**Overview**
The Essentials of Advanced Nursing Practice Field Experience course gives you an opportunity to practice the skills of the advanced practice nurse. The field experience allows you to apply leadership knowledge to evaluate a quality improvement project within a healthcare setting.

The objective assessment will provide an opportunity to apply your knowledge to scenarios relevant to advanced nursing roles in quality improvement activities.

In this course you will integrate and apply your learning in a clinical experience working with a nurse leader in your community. You will demonstrate and document the following skills:

- lead change to improve quality care outcomes
- advance a culture of excellence through lifelong learning
- build and lead collaborative interprofessional care teams
- navigate and integrate care services across the healthcare system
- design innovative nursing practices
- translate evidence into practice

Watch the following video for an introduction to this course:

*Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose “Save as…”: [download video](#).*

**Competencies**
This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 2 competencies:

- **Competency 7004.1.1: Nursing and Interprofessional Standards**
  The graduate applies the master's level nursing and interprofessional standards to an organizational change or innovation to improve quality care outcomes.

- **Competency 7004.1.2: Evaluating and Documenting Innovations**
  The graduate evaluates an organizational change or innovation as measured against the masters level nursing and interprofessional standards.

**Course Mentor Assistance**
As you prepare to successfully demonstrate competency in this subject, remember that course mentors stand ready to help you reach your educational goals. As subject matter experts, mentors enjoy and take pride in helping students become reflective learners, problem solvers, and critical thinkers. Course mentors are excited to hear from you and eager to work with you.
Successful students report that working with a course mentor is the key to their success. Course mentors are able to share tips on approaches, tools, and skills that can help you apply the content you’re studying. They also provide guidance in assessment preparation strategies and troubleshoot areas of deficiency. Even if things don't work out on your first try, course mentors act as a support system to guide you through the revision process. You should expect to work with course mentors for the duration of your coursework, and you are encouraged to contact them as soon as you begin. Course mentors are fully committed to your success!

**Preparing for Success**

The information in this section is provided to detail the resources available for you to use as you complete this course.

**Learning Resources**

The learning resources listed in this section are required to complete the activities in this course. For many resources, WGU has provided automatic access through the course. However, you may need to manually enroll in or independently acquire other resources. Read the full instructions provided to ensure that you have access to all of your resources in a timely manner.

**Automatically Enrolled Learning Resources**

You will be automatically enrolled at the activity level for the following learning resources. Simply click on the links provided in the activities to access the learning materials.

**VitalSource E-Texts**

The following textbooks are available to you as e-texts within this course. You will be directly linked to the specific readings required within the activities that follow.


_Note: These e-texts are available to you as part of your program tuition and fees, but you may purchase hard copies at your own expense through a retailer of your choice. If you choose to do so, please use the ISBN listed to ensure that you receive the correct edition._

**Nursing Standards**

You will be able to access Nursing Professional Standards as they apply to your program through the WGU Library. Please access these documents at the following website:

- [WGU Library Nursing E-Reserves](#)

**Pacing Guide**

The pacing guide suggests a weekly structure to pace your completion of learning activities. It is provided as a suggestion and does not represent a mandatory schedule. Follow the pacing guide carefully to complete the course in the suggested timeframe. *Please note that there is BOTH an objective and performance assessment connected with this course, as identified on the pacing guide below.*
Nursing and Interprofessional Standards

Being a leader in nursing means that you are able to improve healthcare outcomes, effect positive change, and work with interprofessional teams. This is your opportunity to apply much of the information you have been studying to real-world situations.

Nursing and Interprofessional Standards

As a nurse, you are responsible for various activities that contribute to providing patient-centered care, including working in teams and applying evidence-based practices to improve the quality of healthcare available to patients in a variety of settings. In this section, you will focus on improving quality care outcomes through organizational change and innovation. Work with a nurse leader in your workplace or community as directed in the activities in this section.

This topic addresses following competency:

- Competency 7004.1.1: Nursing and Interprofessional Standards
  The graduate applies the master's level nursing and interprofessional standards to an organizational change or innovation to improve quality care outcomes.

This topic highlights the following key concepts:

- the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the master's prepared nurse as a member of an interprofessional healthcare team, based on established national guidelines and recommendations
- different approaches to the science of improvement as they apply to master's prepared nursing practice
- gaps in healthcare processes in a healthcare setting

Read: Roles, Responsibilities, and Expectations

Read the following chapters in Advanced Practice Nursing:

- chapter 2 ("Advanced Practice Nursing: Moving Beyond the Basics")
- chapter 25 ("Introduction to Ethics")

After you have finished reading the chapters, complete following discussion questions in your notes:

- questions 1–4 on page 26
- questions 2, 3, 7, and 9 on page 567

Complete: Interview
Identify a master's-prepared nurse who is a leader within your healthcare setting. Interview that nurse about nursing and interprofessional standards frequently encountered in quality and patient safety issues in the workplace and in advanced nursing practice in general.

**Read: Approaches to Improvement**

Read about the IHI PDSA model - “How to Improve”

Read the following chapters in *Advanced Practice Nursing*:

- chapter 17 (“Theory-Based Advanced Nursing Practice”), pages 368–374
- chapter 18 (“Knowledge Development in Nursing: Our Historical Roots and Future Opportunities”)

After you have finished reading the chapters, complete the following discussion questions in your notes:

- questions 4–5 on page 378
- question 1 on page 394

**Complete: Reflection**

In your notes, reflect on different nursing theories and how these theories exist within some of the healthcare settings that you have experienced. Identify at least three specific applications of theory. Compare these with the IHI model for improvement.

**Watch: The Science of Improvement**

Watch the videos on the following web page:

- [The Science of Improvement ... On a Whiteboard!](#)

**Review the IHI PDSA model - “How to Improve”**

**Read: Healthcare Quality**

Read the following chapter in *Advanced Practice Nursing*:

- chapter 13 (“Healthcare Quality”)

After you have finished reading the chapter, complete the following discussion questions in your notes:

- questions 1–4 on page 305

**Complete: Quality Improvement**

Go to [TaskStream](#) and review the requirements for the task in the Essentials of Advanced Nursing Practice Field Experience course.
Identify a change leader in your healthcare setting. Interview that leader about a recent quality improvement initiative. Discuss how the problem was identified, including any data that helped substantiate the need for change. Determine what measurement was performed, how the change was implemented, how the data was collected and analyzed, and determine the role and responsibilities of the stakeholders involved in these activities.

**Evaluating and Documenting Innovations**

One of the primary functions of a nurse leader is to examine, evaluate, document, and design processes for innovation in healthcare, whether it is on a small scale (such as working with one patient) or a large one (such as a national healthcare initiative).

**Evaluating and Documenting Innovations**

The project for this course requires that you carefully examine and document a quality improvement or innovation that has been completed in your practice setting or community. This topic will guide you through examples of some of the steps of that process.

This topic addresses following competency:

- **Competency 7004.1.2: Evaluating and Documenting Innovations**
  The graduate evaluates an organizational change or innovation as measured against the masters level nursing and interprofessional standards.

This topic highlights the following key concepts:

- instances where organizational change or innovation can be applied to address a contemporary healthcare problem for a patient or population
- processes used in the development and implementation of a healthcare project or innovation
- how data can be used to measure quality and improve healthcare
- the relevance of data and evidence used to initiate or support a patient advocacy project, a system change, or an educational program; or address the individual needs of a patient
- the team membership and function in development of an innovation
- the implications of a change to the patient, family, and population
- the need for patient advocacy during the development of a healthcare innovation or change
- communication processes used in the implementation of an innovation

**Read: Using Information in Advanced Practice Nursing**

Read the following chapters in *Advanced Practice Nursing*:

- chapter 14 ("Information Technology for Advanced Nursing Practice"), pages 429-470
- chapter 15 ("The Electronic Health Record and Clinical Informatics")
- chapter 21 ("Clinical Scholarship and Evidence-Based Practice")
- chapter 16 ("IOM Core Competency: Utilize Informatics")
- chapter 19 ("Research: How Health Care Advances")
• chapter 24 ("Health Services for Special Populations")

After you have finished reading the chapters, complete following discussion questions in your notes:

- questions 3–5 on page 316
- questions 1–3 on page 470
- questions 1–2 on page 330
- questions 4 and 12 on page 353, along with the case scenario
- questions 1–17 on page 541

Read: Process for Healthcare Improvement

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) provides guidance for the improvement of quality in healthcare. Read the following document from the NCQA:

- QIA Effectiveness: Defining "Meaningful Improvement"

Complete: Process for Healthcare Improvement

Go to TaskStream and review the requirements for the task in the Essentials of Advanced Nursing Practice Field Experience course.

In this activity, you will document the change process that you previously discussed with your change leader in your healthcare setting. This will be good practice for the capstone project you will complete as part of this program.

Download the following form to use as you complete this activity:

- QIA Instructions and Form

Note: The form includes several pages of instructions and explanations, and the part of the form you would fill out begins on page 20. The information on the first 19 pages will help you understand how data can be used to measure and improve quality.

You can also download the QIA form along other required instructions, rubric and forms over in Taskstream.

Consider the following issues you will need to address when you fill out the form for your project:

- Identify a healthcare problem that your organization has addressed and the population this has impacted. How did resolving this problem help the population and the organization as a whole?
- List the steps in the process that the organization used to develop a plan for addressing the problem you identified. How was this plan taken to implementation?
- List two approaches that your healthcare setting uses in identifying a quality improvement (QI) issue. What models of knowledge could be applied to how your
healthcare organization analyzes gaps in processes?
- Identify the method that was used to collect data in the above problem. How was this data analyzed? How was the integrity of the data preserved?
- List the committees involved in resolving the problem. Identify the change leaders and their positions. How did the change leaders' positions help them to drive change?
- Describe the outcome of the change.

Read: Leadership and Role Transition for the Advanced Practice Nurse

Read the following chapters in Advanced Practice Nursing:

- chapter 27 ("Leadership Development Through Mentorship and Professional Development Planning")
- chapter 28 ("Managing Personal Resources: Time and Stress Management")
- chapter 29 ("Role Transition: Strategies for Success in the Marketplace")
- chapter 30 ("Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health")

After you have finished reading the chapters, complete the following discussion questions in your notes:

- question 1 on page 593
- questions 1 and 3 on page 605
- questions 1-3 on page 630
- question 4 on page 653

Complete: Objective Assessment

Take the pre-assessment to gauge your understanding of the two competencies covered in this course. Review the coaching report and discuss the results with your mentors. When ready, schedule your objective assessment.

For details about the objective assessment, see the "Assessment" tab in this course.

Quality Improvement and Change Management

One of the important roles of an advanced practice nurse is to find ways to continuously improve the quality of healthcare and related processes.

Continuous Quality Improvement

In this section, you will evaluate an organizational change in your healthcare organization using a standard QIA form. For more information about this, see the Essentials of Advanced Nursing Practice course.

This topic addresses the following competencies:

- **Competency 7004.1.1: Nursing and Interprofessional Standards**
  The graduate applies the master's-level nursing and interprofessional standards to an organizational change or innovation to improve quality care outcomes.
- **Competency 7004.1.2: Evaluating and Documenting Innovations**
  The graduate evaluates an organizational change or innovation as measured against the master's-level nursing and interprofessional standards.

This topic highlights the following key concepts:

- the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the master's-prepared nurse as a member of an interprofessional healthcare team, based on established national guidelines and recommendations
- different approaches to the science of improvement as they apply to master's-prepared nursing practice
- gaps in healthcare processes in a healthcare setting
- instances where organizational change or innovation can be applied to address a contemporary healthcare problem for a patient or population
- processes used in the development and implementation of a healthcare project or innovation
- how data can be used to measure quality and improve healthcare
- the relevance of data and evidence used to initiate or support a patient advocacy project, a system change, or an educational program; or address the individual needs of a patient
- the team membership and function in development of an innovation
- the implications of a change to a patient, family, and population
- the need for patient advocacy during the development of a healthcare innovation or change
- communication processes used in the implementation of an innovation

**Review: Change Investigation and Quality Improvement**

Go to [TaskStream](#) and review the requirements and rubric the task in the Essentials of Advanced Nursing Practice Field Experience course.

Review the other courses in your program if you need more information to help you complete this task.

**Complete: Performance Task**

Complete the following task in [TaskStream](#):

- Advanced Nursing Field Exp

For details about this performance assessment, see the "Assessment" tab in this course.

**Final Steps**

Congratulations on completing the activities in this course! This course has prepared you to complete the assessments associated with this course. If you have not already been directed to complete the assessments, schedule and complete them now.

**The WGU Library**
The WGU Library

The WGU Library is available online to WGU students 24 hours a day.

For more information about using the WGU Library, view the following videos on The WGU Channel:

Introducing the WGU library

*Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...":* download video.

Searching the WGU library

*Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...":* download video.

Center for Writing Excellence: The WGU Writing Center

If you need help with any part of the writing or revision process, contact the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE). Whatever your needs—writing anxiety, grammar, general college writing concerns, or even ESL language-related writing issues—the CWE is available to help you. The CWE offers personalized individual sessions and weekly group webinars. For an appointment, please e-mail writingcenter@wgu.edu.

Feedback

WGU values your input! If you have comments, concerns, or suggestions for improvement of this course, please submit your feedback using the following form:

- Course Feedback

Accessibility Policy

Western Governors University recognizes and fulfills its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and similar state laws. Western Governors University is committed to provide reasonable accommodation(s) to qualified disabled learners in University programs and activities as is required by applicable law(s). The Office of Student Accessibility Services serves as the principal point of contact for students seeking accommodations and can be contacted at ADASupport@wgu.edu. Further information on WGU’s Accessibility policy and process can be viewed in the student handbook at the following link:

- Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities