

# INDEPENDENT STUDY REFRESHER COURSE

for

## REGISTERED NURSES (Arkansas)



**Minnesota State**  
Community and Technical College  
Custom Training Services

**1900 28th Ave. So.  
Moorhead, MN 56560**

# GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

## CONTACT HOURS EARNED

200 FOR ARKANSAS RN REFRESHER STUDENTS

## COURSE FEE

\$995: This includes the initial criminal background study fee and liability insurance. A criminal background study will need to be initiated by the college prior to starting clinical. A form is mailed to the student upon course enrollment to gather data to begin this process. This study is initiated by the college and completed through the State's Department of Justice. There will be an additional \$9.10 fee that the student will pay at the fingerprinting agency. Further instructions will be emailed to the student regarding the background study process and completion deadline.

Course fee is payable by cash, check, or credit card. Send payment with application form. Instructions on how to gain access to the online course will be emailed to the student. **A med/surg book will need to be purchased.**

Hinkle, Janice L. & Cheever, Kerry H., *Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing*, 14<sup>th</sup> edition, Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer Health/ Lippincott Williams & Wilkens, 2017

## NURSE'S LIABILITY INSURANCE

Nurse's liability insurance is included in the above fee; however, if not acceptable by the chosen clinical site, a student will need to purchase a separate policy prior to beginning the clinical experience. Coverage must be for \$2,000,000 per occurrence/\$6,000,000 per aggregate.

**For more course information or  
information on how to register, call:**

Karen Stenstrom, RN  
Director of Health Training  
(218) 299-6586 Phone  
(218) 299-6933 Fax

E-mail address: [karen.stenstrom@minnesota.edu](mailto:karen.stenstrom@minnesota.edu)  
[www.minnesota.edu/wds](http://www.minnesota.edu/wds)

# COURSE OUTLINE

## A. Course Title

Independent Study Refresher Course for Arkansas Registered Nurses

## B. Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide an opportunity for exposure to current nursing theory and practice as it relates to the role of the registered nurse as a member of today's health care system. This course will also enhance preparation of the nurse for the orientation program of an employing agency.

## C. Total Course Hours

Theory - A minimum of 120 hours will be spent completing the theory component of the course.

Clinical - A minimum of 80 hours of supervised clinical will be required to be completed in an AR clinical facility.

Students must secure the facility for the clinical rotation in their home community.

\* It is recommended students complete the entire course within 12 months. If deemed necessary, arrangements can be made to extend the completion date on an individual basis with prior approval from the course coordinator. An additional fee of \$250 will be required for a 3-month extension.

## D. Overall Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the nurse refresher student will be able to:

1. Identify the professional roles, responsibilities and clinical judgment required in current nursing practice.
2. Identify and describe ethical, legal and professional issues in health care.
3. Discuss the various methods of nursing care delivery and the role of the nurse and assistant to the nurse.
4. Use effective communication strategies in nursing care delivery, ie.documentation,care planning, reporting.
5. Describe the characteristics of the current healthcare delivery system that impact safety, quality and outcomes for patients.
6. Demonstrate knowledge and safe appropriate medication and treatment administration.
7. Apply the nursing process in planning and providing care for patients with selected medical/surgical conditions.
8. Discuss current management concepts utilized in all the following areas:
  - a. Basic Concepts in Nursing
  - b. Biophysical and Psychological Concepts in Nursing Practice
  - c. Nursing Concepts and Challenges in Clinical Practice
  - d. Concepts in Clinical Practice and Related Skills

## **E. Instructional Methods**

1. Course orientation (via phone if needed)
2. Periodic conferences, as needed
3. Independent Learning Guide (online)
4. Clinical experience (secured and arranged by the student in a healthcare facility in the refresher students' home community/area of residence)

## **F. Evaluation Methods**

1. Mid-term and final exam each with a 76% or higher passing grade. The mid-term exam will be a take home exam. The final exam will be monitored by a proctor identified by the refresher student. If a score of less than 76% is received on the final exam, the student will be allowed one retake with a different examination.
2. Clinical student evaluation completed by RN preceptor
3. Online assignments in the Independent Learning Guide (satisfactory/unsatisfactory)
4. Comprehensive Care Plan completed on one client co-assigned to during clinical (satisfactory/unsatisfactory)
5. Skills checklist signed by both RN preceptor and student
6. Final Student Evaluation completed by course coordinator
7. Course evaluation completed by student

## **G. Theoretical and Clinical Components**

### **Theoretical Components**

After the nurse refresher student has enrolled and received the course materials. Instructions will be given on how to complete the Independent Learning Guide, either in person or via the phone, if necessary. Areas covered at this time are course objectives, course requirements and assignments. Arrangements can be made for the course to be started and completed entirely via mail or online. Students are instructed to contact the course coordinator at any time should they need assistance or have questions regarding their independent study. The independent learning guide will take a minimum of 120 hours to complete.

Students must complete Sections 1-4 of the learning guide and a mid-term exam prior to beginning their clinical experience.

### **Clinical Laboratory Components**

It is required that prior to the start of clinical the following two online Arkansas Board of Nursing courses be completed: "Delegating Effectively" and the "Arkansas State Board of Nursing Nurse Practice Act." – contact Karen for information and the website for these courses.

It is the responsibility of the nurse refresher course participant to secure the clinical placement site in a healthcare facility in his/her home community.

A criminal background study will need to be initiated by the college prior to starting clinical. A form is mailed to the student upon course enrollment to gather data to begin this process. If the clinical facility requires an additional or different

background study to be done, the refresher course student will be responsible for any additional associated fees.

Students are required to submit proof of a negative TB result (Mantoux) taken within 6 months of their clinical start date, or a negative chest x-ray taken within the last year. Some facilities require a 2-step Mantoux. Proof of immunity varicella (chickenpox) and measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) may need to be submitted to the course coordinator. Additional immunization records may also be requested by the healthcare facility to be on file.

While in the clinical area, the refresher course student will be co-assigned to a currently licensed registered nurse on staff at the acute or long-term care facility. This registered nurse will act as his/her preceptor and will supervise the clinical experience of the refresher course student. The preceptor must be approved by the clinical facility to act as a preceptor in a one-on-one nursing practice experience. The preceptor will have two years of current clinical practice experience. The nurse preceptor(s) may delegate portions of the learning experience as appropriate.

A minimum of 80 hours will be spent in the clinical setting. Medical-Surgical nursing will be the emphasis for the acute care clinical experience. A student evaluation form will be completed by the registered nurse preceptor evaluating the care given by the refresher course student. This form will be reviewed by the student and signed. The student will return the form to the course coordinator at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, along with verification the required hours of clinical were completed.

The refresher course student must carry professional nurses' liability insurance. As an enrolled refresher course student, you are covered under our colleges' student liability insurance plan.

Students receiving their clinical in an AR facility will obtain a temporary permit from the AR Board of Nursing prior to beginning clinical.

A clinical agreement will need to be signed by the college and clinical facility personnel prior to the start of the clinical experience.

**Textbooks:**

Students are required to purchase the med-surg textbook for the course (on Amazon or in other bookstores):

Hinkle, Janice L. & Cheever, Kerry H., *Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing*, 14<sup>th</sup> edition, Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer Health/ Lippincott Williams & Wilkens, 2017 (**required**)

**Nurse's Recommended:**

Nurse's Drug Guide  
Nursing Diagnosis Handbook

