

Domain 4: Scholarship for the Nursing Discipline

Sub-competency	Progression Indicators (Observable Behaviors)	
	Developing	Developed (Competent)
4.1 Advance the scholarship of nursing.		
4.1a Demonstrate an understanding of different approaches to scholarly practice.	Describe research methods. Compare and contrast different scholarly practices.	Use evaluation criteria to appraise literature.
4.1b Demonstrate application of different levels of evidence.	Explain the different levels of evidence. Categorize publications by level of evidence.	Apply different levels of evidence to clinical decision-making. Appraise and synthesize evidence from multiple levels.
4.1c Apply theoretical framework(s)/models in practice.	Identify key theoretical frameworks/models relevant to nursing practice. Describe how specific theoretical frameworks/models apply to clinical practice.	Provide a rationale for integrating chosen theoretical frameworks/models into plans of care. Evaluate the effectiveness of theoretical frameworks/models in practice through reflective practice.
4.1d Demonstrate an understanding of basic elements of the research process.	List the essential elements of the research process. Explain the steps of the research process.	Design a simple research study, including all essential elements.
4.1e Participate in scholarly inquiry as a team member.	Share expertise and listen to diverse perspectives in group discussions about scholarly inquiry.	Make meaningful contributions to enhance the quality of team-based scholarly projects or assignments.
4.1f Evaluate research.	Identify key components of research. Critique research for strengths and weaknesses.	Synthesize findings from research to draw reasonable conclusions. Evaluate research in a specific area of interest.
4.1g Communicate scholarly findings.	Summarize findings in written or oral formats.	Present findings in peer group settings.
4.2 Integrate best evidence into nursing practice.		
4.2a Evaluate clinical practice to generate questions to improve nursing care.	Evaluate alignment of clinical practice with evidence-based guidelines.	Generate focused, relevant questions to improve nursing care.

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4.2b Evaluate appropriateness and strength of the evidence.	Explain the different types of evidence and their sources. Assess the quality and relevance of evidence for specific clinical questions.	Appraise the strength and applicability of evidence in clinical decision-making. Synthesize evidence from multiple sources to improve practice.
4.2c Use best evidence in practice.	Identify the best evidence relevant to clinical practice.	Integrate best evidence into clinical practice to improve patient outcomes. Evaluate the impact of using the best evidence on patient care and outcomes.
4.2d Participate in the implementation of a practice change to improve nursing care.	Engage in discussions about potential practice changes. Recommend a practice change based on evidence.	Demonstrate the implementation process for a practice change.
4.2e Participate in the evaluation of outcomes and their implications for practice.	Examine data on patient outcomes following practice changes. Analyze data to determine the effectiveness of practice changes.	Evaluate the implications of outcomes for future practice. Disseminate findings from outcome evaluations to inform and improve nursing practice.
4.3 Promote the ethical conduct of scholarly activities.		
4.3a Explain the rationale for ethical research guidelines, including Institutional Review Board (IRB) guidelines.	Identify key ethical research guidelines and the role of the IRB. Explain the importance of ethical research guidelines and IRB processes in protecting participants.	Apply ethical research guidelines and IRB requirements to the design of a scholarly project.

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4.3b Demonstrate ethical behaviors in scholarly projects including quality improvement and EBP initiatives.	Describe ethical principles relevant to scholarly projects and quality improvement initiatives.	Integrate ethical principles into planning and executing quality improvement or EBP initiatives. Evaluate the ethical aspects of scholarly projects and quality improvement initiatives, providing recommendations for improvement.
4.3c Advocate for the protection of participants in the conduct of scholarly initiatives.	Identify the rights and protections of research participants.	Ensure participant protections are upheld in the conduct of scholarly initiatives.
4.3d Recognize the impact of equity issues in research.	Identify equity issues that may affect research outcomes. Discuss the implications of equity issues in research with peers and mentors.	Evaluate research studies for equity issues and advocate for equitable research practices.