

**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF NURSING
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
COURSE OVERVIEW**

COURSE NUMBER: NUR 401Q
COURSE NAME: Caring for America's Heroes: An Introduction to the Veterans Healthcare Administration System
CREDITS: Three (3) Semester Hours
TIME ALLOTMENT: 45 Theory Hours per term
PLACEMENT: This is an elective course which meets the requirement of the VA Nursing Academy grant, but will also be open to all BSN and RN to BSN students. NUR 401Q will be offered in the summer term each year.

RESPONSIBLE FOR COURSE: Randy Moore, RN, MSN
Vanetta Peoples, RN, MSN
Nanci Swan, RN, MSN
Laura Steadman, RN, MSN, CRNP, Ed. D
Myra Smith, RN, PhD

RESOURCE PERSONS: Clinical experts in the care of veterans such as clinical nurse specialists and nurse practitioners.

PRE- and CO- REQUISITES: Pre-requisites are the Level 1 courses in the BSN program.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES: This course builds upon the knowledge and skills achieved in the Level 1 courses as well as knowledge gained from foundational courses in the freshman and sophomore years. Knowledge needed by the nurse generalist in the care of adult patients is developed in increasingly complex learning experiences. In this course knowledge is expanded with focus on care of the VA patients, which is defined as a unique population.

OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of NUR 401Q, the student will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the Veteran's Healthcare Administration (VHA) system including eligibility requirements, benefits and access for its veterans.
2. Describe the historical, economic, and technologic influence of the VHA system on the healthcare system at large.
3. Compare and contrast the incidence and prevalence of common health issues and medical diagnoses among the veteran population versus the general population.
4. Describe physiological, psychosocial, and mental health conditions unique to veterans.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of research and development initiatives by the VHA for the health promotion of veteran and non veteran populations.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the healthcare needs of the increasing numbers of women veterans as well as VHA efforts to meet the needs of women veterans.
7. Demonstrate effective patterns of communication through poster presentation.
8. Apply research on evidence based practice to formulate a plan of care for a veteran with selected health issues.
9. Demonstrate behaviors reflective of the professional roles of the nurse with an emphasis

on caregiver.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to increase the student's understanding of long term and high acuity internal and external environmental variables which affect the health of the unique population of adult patients, veterans, within the Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA). Knowledge gained in this elective course can be applied to the care of VHA patients in this and subsequent didactic and practicum nursing courses.

TYPES OF FACILITIES UTILIZED: School of Nursing facilities, the Learning Resource Center, Lister Hill Library, Mervyn H. Sterne Library and online resources.

TEACHER/LEARNER ACTIVITIES: This course places emphasis upon principles of adult learning. Activities include online classroom lecture and discussions, specified written assignments, and the use of online resources. Students are expected to participate in course readings. Students assume responsibility for independent study and self-evaluation.

EVALUATION: Achievement of the course objectives is evaluated as follows:

Exam I:	40%
Exam II:	40%
Poster presentation:	20%

Assignments: Completion and submission of all assignments are required in order to meet the course objectives and achieve passing status. Assignments should be submitted on time and in the specified format. Failure to do so will result in decreased assignment scores of one letter grade per day late. Students are expected to take course examinations on the dates scheduled. Make-up examinations will only be arranged under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor.

The letter grade is assigned according with the University of Alabama at Birmingham's grading system. The grade required for passing is determined by the School of Nursing's grading policy. Any assignment submitted for a grade in this course is subject to electronic review for plagiarism.

All students enrolled in NUR 401Q are expected to comply with the School of Nursing Honor Code.

For specific clarification and further information, please refer to the UAB School of Nursing Handbook located at <http://www.uab.son/son>.

Any student who believes that he/she has a need for disability services should contact the Office of Disability Support Services at the Hill University Center.

Students with a Visa status of F1 or J1 must make an appointment with the course faculty no later than Week #2 of the semester to plan how the student will meet federal immigration regulations.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: None

Originally approved by Faculty Organization April 26, 2010. Revised April 26, 2011. Revised May 7, 2012. Please retain this date on all subsequent revisions.
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UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
 UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF NURSING
 Core Performance Standards for BSN Admission and Progression
Distance-Accessible Course Standards
 NUR 401Q Caring for America's Heroes: An Introduction to the Veterans Healthcare
 Administration System

Issue	Standard	Some Examples of Necessary Activities within the course (not all inclusive)
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment	Synthesize reading assignments, able to write course assignments
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds	Interact with classmates and course instructors on course related subjects, able to work with other students on a group project
Communication	Communication abilities (hearing, speaking, reading, and writing) sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form	Communicate with faculty and other students via e-mail and electronic threaded discussions
Motor Skills	Physical abilities sufficient to use a computer.	Complete written assignments and examinations by typing on the computer
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to complete class assignments	Listen to online audiovisual presentations
Visual	Visual ability sufficient to participate in course activities	Complete reading assignments and watch audiovisual presentations

(Adapted from the SCCEN March 1993 recommendations related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) implications for nursing education)

Submitted: June 2007
 Adopted June 2007

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TOPICAL OUTLINE

NUR 401Q Caring for America's Heroes: An Introduction to the Veterans Healthcare Administration System

TOPICS

1. History of the VA/VHA System
2. Veteran benefits
3. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
4. Women Veterans
5. Suicide
6. Homelessness
7. Palliative Care
8. Computerized Patient Record System & Bar Code Medication Administration
9. Traumatic Brain Injury
10. A. Top 10 VA Diagnoses
 1. Nursing Measures/Interventions & Social Work, etc.
- B. Available Resources from VHA Facilities vs. Community Facilities
 1. VISN Groupings