

## NUR 39100 Professional Ethics

### Course Information & Objectives

[College of Nursing \(CON\) Contact Information](#)

#### Course Description:

Ethics as applied to nursing is examined both theoretically and practically. Basic concepts associated with ethical theory are applied to moral self-concept, role function, and practice situations involving interdependence. Particular attention is given to the ideas of advocacy, autonomy, and authority in beginning nursing practice.

#### Course Pattern:

Lecture 02 Lab 00 Credit 02

#### Prerequisites/Co-requisites:

NUR 18200

#### Course Objectives (Student Learning Outcomes):

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. Recognize self as an autonomous moral agent. (Aligns to Program Outcome #3 and #7)
2. Understand the significance of ethics to professional nursing care. (Aligns to Program Outcome #1, #4 and #7)
3. Understand the interdependence of all participants in the bioethical context. (Aligns to Program Outcome #2, #3 and #4)
4. Apply a prescribed decision-making framework to specific situations in varying contexts. (Aligns to Program Outcome #1 and #6)
5. Justify practice decision using bioethical standards. (Aligns to Program Outcome #3, #6, and #7)
6. Relate health care policies to social justice and other ethical principles. (Aligns to Program Outcome #7)

Students will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of activities in this course:

- Actively participate in all course activities
- Complete assignments and exams with a 78% or better

#### End of Program Outcomes:

1. Utilize the nursing process to implement principles of person centered care within the framework of basic human needs and life span development.
2. Demonstrate effective communication while collaborating therapeutically and effectively with healthcare system stakeholders.

3. Demonstrate professional leadership in the coordination of healthcare that minimizes risk, promotes safety, and manages resources by creating a culture of continuous quality improvement.
4. Implement the principles of evidence based nursing practice in policy development and the provision of person centered care in an evolving healthcare environment.
5. Utilize information technology to coordinate and support decision-making in the provision of person centered care.
6. Implement critical thinking strategies in the context of health promotion, health maintenance, health restoration and palliation to maximize optimal person centered health outcomes.
7. Exemplify professional values to include accountability for practice, and principles of altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity, social justice and ethics.

### **Assignments & Determination of Course Grade:**

#### **Week 1 Assignment: Moral Compass**

We are all shaped by our past, including our upbringing. We often make decisions based on guidelines, rules, or a specific worldview that acts a frame of reference that helps us judge right from wrong. In this assignment, you will write a 2- to 3-page paper describing your own moral compass.

#### **Week 2 Assignment: Applying the ANA Code of Ethics**

In this assignment, you will be presented five nursing scenarios. Each scenario can be analyzed using certain provisions and interpretive statements from the ANA's Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements. Provide brief answers in response to each case that include what you would do if you were the nurse involved. Identify and explain the provisions and the interpretive statements that justify your responses.

#### **Week 4 Assignment: Professional Letter Advocating Social Justice**

In this assignment, you will write a letter to advocate a position specific to social justice. The letter should be addressed to the appropriate person, such as a congressperson from your state if your focus is a state-level issue to be voted on. Write from your stance as a professional nurse. As such, articulate how health is linked to your topic as well as the bioethical principles and concepts justifying your position.

#### **Week 5 Assignment: Case Analysis**

In this assignment, consider a case where you have experienced an ethical dilemma as an RN or a nursing student. You may use your selected case topic identified from the discussion earlier in the course, including any ideas generated in the forum. Use the 6-step Ethical Positioning System (EPS) decision-making framework to analyze the dilemma. Your conclusion will incorporate the evaluation of the decision-making process and how you propose the dilemma be resolved. Compare this with how the dilemma was originally resolved. Excluding cover and reference pages, the paper will be about 5-7 pages in length. You will refer to ANA's Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements as you complete your paper.

## Course Schedule:

Refer to the calendar in Brightspace for dates and times. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding learning module. The dates and learning topics are subject to change.

## Due Dates

### Weeks 1-4:

- Discussion initial post: **Due – Thursday at 10:00 p.m. CT.**
- Discussion responses: **Due – Sunday at 10:00 p.m. CT.**
- Assignments (unless indicated differently in the course): **Due – Sunday at 10:00 p.m. CT.**
- Quizzes and exams: **Due – Sunday at 10:00 p.m. CT.**

### Week 5:

- Discussion initial post: **Due – Tuesday at 10:00 p.m. CT.**
- Discussion responses: **Due – Friday at 10:00 p.m. CT.**
- Assignments (unless indicated differently in the course): **Due – Friday at 10:00 p.m. CT.**
- Quizzes and exams: **Due – Sunday at 10:00 p.m. CT.**

## Course Calendar:

Week	Topic	Graded Activities/Assignments
1	Introduction to Ethics in Professional Nursing Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussions 1 &amp; 2: <b>Due – Thursday</b></li><li>• Moral Compass: <b>Due – Sunday</b></li><li>• Quiz: <b>Due – Sunday</b></li></ul>
2	Nursing Ethics Across the Lifespan Part I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion: <b>Due – Thursday</b></li><li>• Applying the ANA Code of Ethics: <b>Due – Sunday</b></li><li>• Quiz: <b>Due – Sunday</b></li></ul>
3	Nursing Ethics Across the Lifespan Part II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion 1 &amp; 2: <b>Due – Thursday</b></li><li>• Quiz: <b>Due – Sunday</b></li></ul>
4	Special Considerations in Nursing Ethics Part I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion: <b>Due – Thursday</b></li><li>• Professional Letter: Advocating Social Justice:</li><li>• Quiz: <b>Due – Sunday</b></li></ul>
5	Special Considerations in Nursing Ethics Part II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion: <b>Due – Tuesday</b></li><li>• Case Analysis:</li><li>• Quiz: <b>Due – Sunday</b></li></ul>

### Graded Course Activities:

Points	Description
42	Discussions – Weeks 1-5 (6 pts each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Week 1 Discussion 1</li><li>• Week 1 Discussion 2</li><li>• Week 2 Discussion</li><li>• Week 3 Discussion 1</li><li>• Week 3 Discussion 2</li><li>• Week 4 Discussion</li><li>• Week 5 Discussion</li></ul>
12	Quizzes/Exams <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Week 1 (3 points)</li><li>• Week 2 (3 points)</li><li>• Week 3 (3 points)</li><li>• Week 4 (2 points)</li><li>• Week 5 (1 point)</li></ul>
10	Moral Compass
6	Applying the ANA Code of Ethics
6	Professional Letter: Advocating Social Justice
24	Case Analysis
100	Total Points Possible

### Minimum Passing Standard

Upon completion of all required methods of evaluation, the student must have achieved an average score of 78% in the course.