

METHODIST UNIVERSITY

School of Health Sciences

Department of Nursing

Plan for Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)

Part 1: A description of what constitutes good writing in nursing

The profession of nursing requires a great deal of swift, accurate writing. Nurses are required to fill out reports and charts correctly and completely and record interactions with doctors and patients fairly. In addition, nurses must always be prepared to defend the information recorded.

The major purpose for written communication within nursing is to clearly and concisely document plans-of-care for clients using the nursing process. The quality of nursing notes and nursing care plans is often dependent upon a nurse's ability to assess the patient and critically develop, analyze, and communicate the plan of care. Nursing notes are legal forms of documentation, and principles related to scholarly writing usually do not apply to this type of documentation. The ability to write in a scholarly style, however, is an essential skill for nursing graduates since written communication in the form of comprehensive nursing care assessments, case management, and documentation of nursing policies and practice is used on a daily basis in all health care settings. Writing well is also a prerequisite for the pursuit of graduate nursing education. In addition, many nursing journals that keep the nursing community up to date on advances in nursing practice and policy statements about nursing care and critical health care issues require the use of APA style.

Part 2: Achievement of the departmental goal of nursing student writing in the department of nursing will be achieved by:

NUR 3110 Introduction to Nursing, 4 pp., 10% of course grade (Atwater)

NUR 4010 Research in Nursing, 5 pp., 25% of course grade (Atwater)

NUR 4050 Principles of Leadership in Nursing, 4 pp., 10% of course grade (Bearinger)

NUR 4500 Capstone Nursing Seminar, 15 pp., 25% of course grade (Terry)

Part 3: While rubrics for PowerPoint and poster presentations, as well as additional information about NUR course requirements, are included in the WAC folder for Nursing, as of 2/4/2015, no rubrics for papers have been submitted.



Methodist University
Department of Nursing

Name _____ Date: _____

Written Paper Rubric: NUR 3000, NUR 4010, NUR 4050

Directions: Your written paper will be graded based on this rubric. Consequently, use this rubric as a guide when writing your paper and check it again before you submit the paper.

Points Available	11-15	6-10	2-5	1
Focus & Details	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main ideas are clear and are well supported by detailed and accurate information.	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main ideas are clear but are not well supported by detailed information.	There is one topic. Main ideas are somewhat clear.	The topic and main ideas are not clear.
Organization	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic, and provides an overview of the paper. Information is relevant and presented in a logical order. The conclusion is strong.	The introduction states the main topic and provides an overview of the paper. A conclusion is included.	The introduction states the main topic. A conclusion is included.	There is no clear introduction, structure, or conclusion.
Voice	The author's purpose of writing is very clear, and there is strong evidence of attention to audience. The author's extensive knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are evident.	The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is some evidence of attention to audience. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are evident.	The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is evidence of attention to audience. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are limited.	The author's purpose of writing is unclear.
Word Choice	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words seems accurate, natural, and not forced.	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words is inaccurate at times and/or seems overdone.	The author uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety.	The writer uses a limited vocabulary. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning.
Sentence, Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling	All sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes no errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	Most sentences are well constructed and have a varied structure and length. The author makes a few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, but they do not interfere with understanding.	Most sentences are well constructed, but they have a similar structure and/or length. The author makes several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.	Sentences sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. The author makes numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.
Points Available	6-10	3-5	0-2	
References	Current (within 5 years) Journals are peer-reviewed Minimum of 3 references APA format	Journals are over 5 yrs old Journals are peer-reviewed 2 references APA format	Journals are over 5 yrs old Journals are not peer-reviewed 1 reference Not in APA format	
Points Available	11-15	6-10	0-5	
APA Format	Paper has 1" margins Font is Times New Roman or Arial 12 pt. Title page included In-text citations are correctly documented	Paper has 0.5" margins Font is Times New Roman or Arial 12 pt. Title page contains errors Half of In-text citations are not correctly documented	Paper has less than 0.5" Margins Font is times New Roman or Arial 12 pt. Title page omitted None of In-text citations are correctly documented	

Points Earned:

Focus & Details _____

Organization _____

Voice _____

Word Choice _____

Sentence, Structure _____

APA Format _____

References _____

Total Points Earned: _____

Graded by: _____

**** You must achieve 76 points or greater for satisfactory completion.**

COMMENTS: