

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY NURSING PROGRAM
**NURS 4340: Influencing Health Policy:
Implications for Nursing Practice**

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Class: Spring I, 2008 - Tuesday - 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Nurse Advocacy Day -Tuesday, Feb. 12
(8:00am-2:30pm) Jefferson City, MO
MONA Web Site for more information:
http://www.missourinurses.org/pdf/2008_nurse_advocacy_day.pdf

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This elective course examines the relationship of health policy and nursing practice. The legislative process at both state and national levels is explored. Selected health care issues are used to illustrate the role of the professional nurse in the legislative process. Legislative activities in Jefferson City are observed. (This elective may be taken for 2 or 3 credits)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the role of the professional nurse in grassroots politics.
2. Discuss the American Nurses' Association (ANA) agenda for health care.
3. Identify health care issues in the state and federal legislatures.
4. Identify techniques for influencing health care policy.

TEXTBOOK:

There is no required textbook for the course. Readings from current literature are utilized.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance is mandatory for class sessions and for attendance at Nurse Advocacy Day in Jefferson City on **Tuesday, February 12** from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm. Transportation is not provided to Jefferson City. There is a nonrefundable registration fee which last year was \$ 35. Typically this fee includes program materials, continuing education certificates, coffee and Danish, lunch and a Lobby Day button. Students who cannot attend class sessions and Lobby Day need to withdraw from the course.

*** Come prepared to pay registration fee. Checks must be made out to Susan Chrisman so that I can submit one check to MONA for all the registrations.**

In addition to mandatory attendance, students enrolled for two credit hours must meet the following requirements:

In a 3 ring notebook, compile materials, by section, in which you:

1. Identify your state Senate district and state Congressional district.
 - Identify your state Senator and state Representative.
 - List committees/ leadership positions of the Senator and Representative.
2. Identify health-related bills that will be presented to the 2003 session.
3. Identify at least one health-related issue of personal interest from the proposed bills.
4. Draft a letter / information sheet for either your Senator or Representative, a bill sponsor, or member of the appropriate committee about the particular issue and your position on the bill.
5. Review the nursing literature within the past 5 years for articles pertaining to lobbying, political action, health care reform, and/or particular health problems/issues that may impact the state legislative agenda. Write a brief impression/reaction to the article. A minimum of four articles, with impressions, are required.
6. Review nonprofessional literature (newspapers and magazines) for health related information of importance to your state. Write a brief impression/ reaction to the article. Four articles, with impressions, minimum requirement.
7. Attend one community or professional lecture/forum discussing health care issues.
8. On Nurse Advocacy Day, make personal contact with either your state Senator or state Representative and discuss the specific health related issue previously identified. (numbers 5 and 6 above)
9. Evaluate the Advocacy Day experience.

All of the above items are kept in a loose leaf binder with section labeled. These will be reviewed during individual appointments Weeks 4 or 6 of the term and again when submitted, Week 8. Students need to include specific information about all 9 items, and personal comments and reflections. The final grade, for 2 credits, is based on attendance/participation at class and Advocacy Day, and the completeness of the notebook.

These requirements are intended to be individualized by each student and designed to be met independently. Please seek clarification for any item you do not understand or for any assistance you may need. Help is available upon request.

In addition to the above requirements, students enrolled for 3 credit hours:

- May read additional 5 articles pertaining to health issues and the political process. Articles may focus on either state or national issues. The articles are **not** the same as those chosen for the assignment for 2 credits. Articles must come from nursing journals and be within the last five years. Articles are read and then an abstract is written in APA format for each article. Specific directions will be given during the first class. Abstracts and copies of the articles are due Week 6. Abstracts will be returned at the last class meeting.
- or**
- Other independent activities, in lieu of abstracts, will be individually considered. Students have done things like: creating a political game and having the class play; attending the Kansas Lobby Day and comparing the two experiences; hosting and directing a brown bag lunch with nurses to discuss political action and politics.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Local:

City, county or community library	League of Women Voters
Local nursing specialty organizations	Missouri Second District office
Mental Health Association	Alzheimer's Association
Local Public Health Association	Local AARP
Kansas City office of your state legislators	

Jefferson City: World Wide Web:

State of Missouri Home Page	[http://www.state.mo.us],
Senate Home Page	[http://www.senate.state.mo.us]
House of Representatives Home Page	[http://www.house.state.mo.us].

*Bills are in the process of being filed for the January session. If you are searching on the house or senate web pages you may search for bills by subject or number.

COURSE EVALUATION:

<u>For two credits:</u>	Attendance at class sessions, individual appointment and Nurse Advocacy Day.
	Completeness of notebook detailing the 9 items listed.
<u>For three credits:</u>	Requirements for two credits
	Abstracts or individually determined activity

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Activity	Content
1	Jan 15*	Class session	Review syllabus Look at course WebPages Discuss independent activities
2	Jan 22	Class session	Clarify course requirements Discuss handouts Explore course & legislative WebPages Finding health-related bills
3	Jan 29	Class session	Review Advocacy Day schedule Legislative process Health policy Contacting legislators Lobbying Readings/ reactions Make appt with instructor
4	Feb 5	Preparation time	Reading/ reactions Draft letter/ info sheet Make Lobby Day appointments
		Individual appts:	Bring notebook Review progress & notebook contents with Instructor Review letter/ info sheet
			Reconfirm appointments for Nurse Advocacy Day
5	Feb 12	Nurse Advocacy Day	Advocacy Day in Jefferson City
6	Feb 19	Individual appts:	Bring notebook Review progress & notebook contents with Instructor Review letter/ info sheet
		All Students:	Abstracts for 3rd credit due
7	Feb 26	Preparation time	Complete notebook work
8	March 4	Class session	Discuss Advocacy Day experience Update on independent activities Notebooks due Course evaluation