

# **INDEPENDENT STUDY REFRESHER COURSE for REGISTERED NURSES (Wisconsin)**



**Workforce Development Solutions**  
Minnesota State Community and Technical College

**1900 28th Ave. So.  
Moorhead, MN 56560**

## **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

### **CONTACT HOURS EARNED**

245 FOR WISCONSIN RN REFRESHER STUDENTS

### **COURSE FEE**

**\$1395:** This Includes the initial criminal background study fee and liability insurance. A criminal background study will need to be initiated by the college prior to starting clinical. A form is mailed to the student upon course enrollment to gather data to begin this process. This study is initiated by the college and completed through the State's Department of Justice. There will be an additional approximate \$9.10 fee that the student will pay at the fingerprinting agency. Further instructions will be emailed to the student regarding the background study process and completion deadline.

Course fee is payable by cash, check, or credit card. Send payment with application form. Instructions on how to gain access to the online course will be emailed to the student.

### **NURSE'S LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Nurse's liability insurance is included in the above fee; however, if not acceptable by the chosen clinical site, a student will need to purchase a separate policy prior to beginning the clinical experience. Coverage must be for \$2,000,000 per occurrence/\$6,000,000 per aggregate.

**For more course information or  
registration information, contact:**

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## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **A. Course Title**

Independent Study Refresher Course for Wisconsin Registered Nurses

### **B. Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to provide an opportunity for exposure to current nursing theory and practice as it relates to the role of the registered nurse as a member of today's health care system. This course will also enhance preparation of the nurse for the orientation program of an employing agency.

### **C. Total Course Hours**

**Theory:** A minimum of 120 hours will be spent completing the theory component of the course.

**Clinical:** A minimum of 125 hours of supervised clinical will be required to be completed in a clinical facility (hospital, long-term care, or assisted living). Twenty-five (25) hours of the 125 clinical hours must include a basic nursing skills review and an equipment/technology update.

The remaining 100 hours of supervised clinical should be allocated predominantly to direct patient care. On-site pre- and post-clinical discussions of learning objectives, care evaluations, and preceptor meetings may be included in these clinical hours.

Students must secure the facility for the clinical rotation in/near their home community.

\*It is recommended students complete the entire course within 12 months. If deemed necessary, arrangements can be made to extend the completion date on an individual basis with prior approval from the course coordinator. An additional fee of \$250 will be required for a 3-month extension immediately following the original 12 months.

### **D. Overall Course Objectives**

At the conclusion of this course, the nurse will be able to:

1. Identify the professional roles, responsibilities, and clinical judgment required in current nursing practice.
2. Identify and describe ethical, legal, and professional issues in health care.
3. Use effective communication strategies in nursing care delivery (i.e., documentation, care planning, reporting).

4. Discuss the various methods of nursing care delivery, and the roles of the nurse and nurse assistant.
5. Describe the characteristics of the current health care delivery systems that impact safety, quality, and outcomes for patients.
6. Demonstrate knowledge and safe administration of medications and treatments.
7. Apply the nursing process in planning and providing care for patients with selected medical/surgical conditions.
8. Discuss current nursing and clinical concepts utilized in the following areas:
  - a. Basic Concepts in Nursing
  - b. Biophysical and Psychological Concepts in Nursing Practice
  - c. Nursing Concepts and Challenges in Clinical Practice
  - d. Concepts in Clinical Practice and Related Skills

#### **E. Instructional Methods**

1. Course orientation
2. Periodic conferences, as needed
3. Online Independent Learning Guide
4. Clinical experience (secured and arranged by the student in/near a healthcare facility in the refresher student's home community/area of residence)

#### **F. Evaluation Methods**

1. Mid-term and final exams, each with a 76% or higher passing grade. The mid-term exam will be taken online in D2L. The final exam will be monitored by a proctor identified by the refresher student. If a score of less than 76% is received on the final exam, the student will be allowed one retake with a different examination.
2. Clinical Student Evaluation completed by RN preceptor
3. Online assignments in the Independent Learning Guide (satisfactory/unsatisfactory)
4. Comprehensive Care Plan completed on one client co-assigned to during clinical (satisfactory/unsatisfactory)
5. Skills Checklist signed by both the RN preceptor and student
6. Final Student Evaluation completed by course coordinator
7. Course evaluation completed by student

#### **G. Theoretical and Clinical Components**

##### **Theoretical Components**

After the nurse refresher student has enrolled, instructions are provided on how to complete the online Independent Learning Course. Areas covered include course objectives, course requirements, and course assignments. The course is to be started and completed entirely online. Students are instructed to contact the course coordinator or theory instructor at any time should they need assistance or have questions regarding

their independent study. The independent learning guide will take a minimum of 120 hours to complete.

Students must complete Sections 1-4 of the Learning Guide and the mid-term exam prior to beginning their clinical experience.

### **Clinical Components**

It is the responsibility of the nurse refresher course student to secure the clinical placement site in a healthcare facility in/near his/her home community. Students should begin the process for securing a clinical experience site soon after enrolling in the course.

A criminal background study will need to be initiated prior to starting clinical. A form is mailed to the student upon course enrollment to gather data to begin this process.

Students are required to submit proof of negative TB result (Mantoux) completed within 6 months of their clinical start date, or a negative chest x-ray taken within the last year, or a negative QuantiFERON Gold blood test completed no more than 6 months prior to the start of clinical. If you have ever had a positive Mantoux or QuantiFERON Gold TB test, you will need to provide documentation that you have completed therapy and have a clear chest x-ray. Some facilities require a 2-step Mantoux. Proof of immunity for COVID-19, varicella (chickenpox), measles/mumps/rubella (MMR), Tdap, and Flu vaccine may need to be submitted to the course coordinator, depending on facility requirements. Additional immunization records and/or proof of current CPR may also be requested by the healthcare facility to be on file.

While in the clinical area, the refresher course student will be assigned to a currently licensed registered nurse on staff at the healthcare facility. This registered nurse will act as his/her preceptor, and will supervise the clinical experience of the refresher course student. The preceptor must be approved by the clinical facility to act as a preceptor in a one-on-one nursing practice experience. The preceptor will have two years of current clinical practice experience. The registered nurse preceptor(s) may delegate portions of the learning experience as appropriate.

A student evaluation form will be completed by the registered nurse preceptor evaluating the care given by the refresher course student. This form will be reviewed by the student and signed by the student and preceptor. The student or preceptor will return the form to the course coordinator at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, along with verification the required hours of clinical were completed.

As an enrolled nurse refresher course student at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, he/she is covered under the college's student liability insurance plan. The student may choose to carry additional liability insurance, at the cost of the student.

A clinical affiliation agreement/contract between the college and clinical facility must be

signed and fully executed prior to beginning clinical.

Students receiving their clinical in a WI facility will need either a current nursing license or limited license prior to beginning clinical.

#### **H. Textbook**

Students are required to purchase the med-surg textbook (can be located on Amazon and other bookstores):

##### **Required:**

Hinkle, J.L., & Cheever, K.H. (2021). *Brunner & Suddarth's textbook of medical-surgical nursing* (15<sup>th</sup> ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott Williams & Wilkens.

##### **Recommended:**

Nurse's Drug Guide

Nursing Diagnosis Handbook