



SCHOOL OF NURSING

Master of Science in Nursing

Comprehensive Examination Grading Rubric

Student Identification Number: _____

Faculty Evaluator Identification Number: _____ Spring Fall Year: _____

Comprehensive Exam Title: _____

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to evaluate the student’s ability to: 1) Apply advanced clinical and theoretical knowledge in nursing, 2) Synthesize and critique research, and 3) Develop a systematic plan for improving nursing practice.

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| <p>Scoring Procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer to the evaluation criteria for each area. 2. Enter the appropriate rating for each criterion. Scores of 4 (good) or 5 (excellent) are needed for an exam to pass. Consistent scoring of a 3 (fair) or below will not yield a passing score. 3. Obtain final score by: a) Multiplying the area subtotals by the designated weight, and b) Combining the four area totals. There are 500 points possible: I=125, II=150, III=125, and IV=100. The area subtotals, area totals, and total score are calculated automatically. 4. Limit comments to a brief identification of deficits for scores of 3 or below. Type comments in appropriate sections of grading rubric; do not write any comments on rubric or student’s exam. 5. Check pass or fail on last page. A total of 350 points out of 500 are needed to pass the exam. 6. Invalidate the entire examination if there is evidence of plagiarism; score as a zero. | <p>5=excellent</p> <p>4=good</p> <p>3=fair</p> <p>2=poor</p> <p>1=very poor or absent</p> |
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| AREA I | <p>Nursing Practice Disparity and the Environmental Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify a practice disparity in an area of nursing specialization. ▪ Describe the characteristics of the environmental context within which the nursing practice disparity exists. | |
| EVALUATION CRITERIA | | SCORE |
| <p>A. <u>Identification of the Practice Disparity</u> Clearly identifies the practice disparity in PICO format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Population. ✓ Intervention: including who, what and where. ✓ Comparison: (benchmark) intervention or status. ✓ Outcome: including target population for the intervention and desired health outcome for the population. | | |
| <p>B. <u>Significance of the Practice Disparity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Introduces the significance of the nursing practice disparity to clients, the nursing profession, and/or the health care system. | | |
| <p>C. <u>Clarity of Setting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Describes the specific physical, organizational, socio-economic, and cultural factors relevant to the identified nursing practice disparity. | | |

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| D. <u>Clarity of Roles and Inter-Relationships</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identifies the stakeholders involved in addressing the practice disparity. ✓ Discusses how input from the stakeholders is to be gathered and addressed. ✓ Identifies the change agents to be employed in addressing the practice disparity. ✓ Explains the roles and relationships of the interdisciplinary team in implementing change to address the practice disparity. ✓ Explains the influences of the environmental context on the stakeholders and interdisciplinary team. | |
| | <i>Area subtotal</i> |
| | <i>Area total x weight factor 6.25</i> |
| | <i>Total points possible 125</i> |
| COMMENTS: | |

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| AREA II | Literature Review: Theory and Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify the theoretical or conceptual framework within which the nursing practice disparity is understood. ▪ Identify and critique the current theoretical and evidence-based literature pertinent to the nursing practice disparity. | |
| EVALUATION CRITERIA | | SCORE |
| A. <u>Theoretical/Conceptual Framework</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Describes how the chosen framework specifically applies to the nursing practice disparity. ✓ Identifies and describes the major concepts of the theoretical or conceptual framework as it relates to the nursing practice disparity. | | |
| B. <u>Literature Review</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provides a literature review including relevant classic and current literature. ✓ Demonstrates the ability to critically analyze and summarize the literature in relation to the nursing practice disparity. ✓ Clearly identifies the gaps in the evidence-based literature. | | |
| C. <u>Addresses Essential Elements of Literature Critique</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Theoretical literature. Establishes credibility of the author/source; clearly articulates the main point(s) of the article. ✓ Research literature. Addresses: sample, design, measures, results, and conclusions. | | |
| D. <u>Quality of Theoretical Discussion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstrates an enhanced theoretical understanding of the nature of the nursing practice disparity. ✓ Integrates discussion of the theoretical/conceptual framework with the literature review in relation to the identified nursing practice disparity. | | |
| | | <i>Area subtotal</i> |
| | | <i>Area total x weight factor 7.5</i> |
| | | <i>Total points possible 150</i> |
| COMMENTS: | | |

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| AREA III Implementation and Evaluation | | SCORE |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify a plan to be implemented to address the identified nursing practice disparity. ▪ Describe the implementation of the plan. ▪ Describe an evaluation procedure for the plan. | | |
| EVALUATION CRITERIA | | SCORE |
| A. <u>Clarity of Expected Proposal Outcomes</u> ✓ Specifies expected outcomes for the plan using specific, measurable, realistic, and time-bound outcome objectives. | | |
| B. <u>Clarity of Implementation</u> ✓ Describes the procedures for implementing the plan in a clear and logical sequence. | | |
| C. <u>Appropriateness of Implementation</u> ✓ Integrates concepts of the theoretical/contextual framework into the implementation plan. ✓ Utilizes the best research evidence in establishing the feasibility of the proposed implementation plan. ✓ Demonstrates a consideration of potential barriers and facilitating factors. ✓ Includes involvement of the interdisciplinary team and stakeholders as appropriate. ✓ Demonstrates a patient/family centered approach to improving health outcomes. | | |
| D. <u>Appropriateness of Evaluation Procedure</u> ✓ Describes how data will be collected to evaluate the effect/success of the plan. ✓ Includes the stakeholders in the evaluation procedure as appropriate. ✓ Provides a plan for dissemination of the outcome evaluation to appropriate stakeholders. | | |
| <i>Area subtotal</i> | | |
| <i>Area total x weight factor 6.25</i> | | |
| <i>Total points possible 125</i> | | |
| COMMENTS: | | |

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| AREA IV Technical Criteria | | SCORE |
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| EVALUATION CRITERIA | | SCORE |
| A. <u>Grammar and Spelling</u> | | |
| B. <u>Organization and APA Format</u> | | |
| C. <u>Innovation</u> ✓ The comprehensive examination represents an innovative contribution to the nursing profession and health care. | | |
| <i>Area subtotal</i> | | |
| <i>Area total x weight factor 6.66</i> | | |
| <i>Total points possible 100</i> | | |

COMMENTS:

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TOTAL SCORE

Total points possible 500

Points needed to pass 350

Check One: Pass Fail