Health Assessment

**COURSE:** Nursing 312

**CREDIT HOURS:** 5 Semester Hours

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Licensed as a Registered Nurse and instructor approval. Students cannot use credit for both NURS 241 and 312 toward graduation.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Assessment is the first step of the decision-making process, and assessment leads to nursing diagnoses. Nursing 312 entertains the belief that nurses must have a current and thorough knowledge of health assessment and highly developed skills in order to function effectively in the demanding, multidisciplinary inpatient and outpatient settings. This course emphasizes this belief through use of scientific rationale and application of the nursing process as described by Neuman in assessing the individual client and family. The health assessment factors cover physical parameters, which are further expanded to include self-care behaviors, health promotion, culture and values, family and social roles, and developmental tasks.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon the successful completion of Nursing 312, the student should be able to:

1. Obtain a complete health history for client/client system using a pre-designated format.
2. Observe and describe specific behaviors indicating the client/client systems general well being.
3. Obtain objective data on the health status of a client/client system using the techniques of inspection, palpation, percussion, and auscultation.
4. Demonstrate assessment skills with the use of specific physical examination equipment.
5. Identify anatomical structures underlying areas of assessment.
6. Identify physiological mechanisms that produce physical findings.
7. Collect and record data in a systematic manner.
8. Formulate nursing diagnosis from interpretation of collected data.
9. Evaluate the collected data as a basis for constructing a plan of care to assist the client/client system in attaining or maintaining an optimal state of energy on his wellness/illness continuum.