N-488 Practicum in Nursing:
Health Services Improvement Work Experience

Course Evaluation:
This course was developed from a vision on the part of the faculty that students are entering a health care environment in which continuous quality improvement and safety for patients and staff is a critical part of professional nursing practice. Magnet hospitals, the IOM Future of Nursing Report, and numerous nursing leadership organizations emphasize the role of nursing in leading efforts to contain cost and improve the safety and quality of the delivery of health care. The didactic portion of the course introduces students to the science of the quality and safety improvement process. Participating in interprofessional team efforts to address quality and safety issues on a unit, students get hands on experience with the process used to ensure the reliability of improved patient outcomes.

Skills and Professional Development:
- Participating as a member of a health care team
- Organizational and management skills to lead QI projects in their professional practice
- Interprofessional communication skills
- Opportunity to pursue certification in Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Modules
- The ability to include a QI project in your professional portfolio
- Analyze use of self in selected interactions, exploring how a proactive approach, goals, self-management, interpersonal relationships, communication, and cooperation influence your achievement of desired outcomes.

Student Comments:
- I learned a lot from participating in a QI project and I feel like we were able to make a positive impact on the unit to which we were assigned.
- This course was excellent in giving students experience in quality improvement.
- This course exceeded my expectations. I included elements from my QI project in my professional portfolio and I that this content really helped to give me an advantage my job search.
- This course was great! Keep doing what you are doing.
- This class gave me valuable information and experience.