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

Course Description:
Practice in health care settings is the course focus. Students participate in a reflective experience that provides the context to integrate classroom and experiential learning into an evolving professional identity.

Course Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, you will be able to:
1. Participate in the processes of quality improvement, within the legal role of a student, demonstrating integration of basic and specialty knowledge and skills, with attention to diversity issues.

2. Explain how the professional nurse/student functions within the interdisciplinary health care team with a particular focus on how to continuously improve nursing care.

3. Develop interpersonal and interdisciplinary relationships that foster team work and communication between all members of the quality improvement project team.

4. Describe the development of a professional identity focusing on the interactions observed, actions taken, and the interactions engaged in as you work in your clinical setting.

5. 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.

6. Apply principles of quality improvement to a work setting issue, or a nursing issue.

7. Demonstrate application of informatics competencies in an analysis of a selected quality improvement project.

Day, Time, and Location:
This class is a hybrid blend of classroom activities, online assignments and clinical experiences. On campus classes will be in Carrington Hall. (See class calendar on Sakai site for specific times and dates.)
Important Note: The clinical time for this class will be coordinated between the student and the clinical project leader with approval from this course faculty. The student will be expected to maintain a log that documents the time and dates of activities that contribute to the clinical hour requirement and submit it by due dates assigned by the course faculty. Students will be expected to maintain professional communication with their project preceptor and make every effort to arrive at a mutually satisfactory timeline. All major scheduling conflicts need to be communicated to the course coordinator.

Focus of the Course:
Practice in health care settings is the course focus. Students participate in a reflective experience that provides the context to integrate classroom and experiential learning into an evolving professional identity. Students do 84 clinical hours in a hospital setting under the supervision of a preceptor. A group of three or more students will work on a quality improvement project team focusing on an issue identified by the preceptor’s department.