GENERAL INFORMATION - N445X RN-BS-NURSING CAPSTONE COURSE

THE COMPETENCY SET: 445X - The Capstone Course for Registered Nurses is a 3-credit competency set that focuses on the integration and synthesis of theory and practice in nursing. The set consists of 2 credits of online competency based assessments and 1 credit (60 hours) of clinical project based practicum, which is obtained in a wide variety of non-direct care settings. Students in this course are licensed registered nurses in their final course/set in our RN to BS-Nursing completion program and typically expect to graduate at the end of the semester. They will have completed a variety of competency sets and are working toward the transition to baccalaureate nursing practice. The student’s performance in meeting the course objectives is evaluated by nursing faculty through the completion of competency-based assessments.

CLINICAL SETTINGS: The preferred role and clinical setting for the RN-BSN Capstone course is a non-direct care role and setting. Many of our Capstone RN to BSN students have past educational, clinical and practice experiences in acute care settings and thus need additional exposure to non-direct care as well and primary care and community-based settings. Clinical settings focus on non-direct care settings. We also hope to provide the students with exposure to a wide variety of settings within the health care system. We strongly encourage our Capstone students to create a clinical project based practicum through their own employer to allow them to expand their knowledge, skills and abilities of nursing roles within their organization. Examples of appropriate RN-BSN Capstone clinical project settings include (but are not limited to):

- **Non-direct care clinical project practicum sites:**
  - Working with a clinical nurse specialist, nurse educator or manager on a specific project, initiative, audit, policy, proposal, guideline or staff development project
  - Care coordination departments, care management departments, quality improvement departments, safety and infection control departments,
  - Magnet Recognition Program committees
  - Project or quality improvement work in work settings, schools, public health departments, child care centers, senior centers or assisted living centers
  - General clinic settings, specialty care clinic settings, free clinics, occupational health departments, workplace wellness initiatives, organization of a health fair in a workplace, community agency or school setting
  - Public health departments, community nursing centers, community health centers, prenatal clinics, prenatal care coordination
  - Schools, child care centers, senior centers, assisted living centers
  - General clinic settings, specialty care clinic settings, outpatient clinics, free clinics, nurse managed clinics, urgent care centers, hemodialysis centers
  - Cardiac rehabilitation departments, occupational health departments, discharge planning departments, diabetic nurse educator site, camp nurse site
  - Home care agencies, hospice care agencies, stroke programs
**THE CLINICAL PROJECT PRACTICUM:** Capstone students are all licensed registered nurses. All students are required to have 60 hours of clinical project practicum experience to complete this competency set. Students are assigned to a BSN (or higher) prepared nurse who is their clinical preceptor and who will help to facilitate their learning. We encourage our RN-BSN Capstone students to complete their clinical practicum hours by working on a project that benefits the agency they are working within. A non-direct care clinical project, which improves the outcomes of care in your setting, is ideal for a Capstone clinical practicum. Most capstone students spend time each week with their preceptor until they complete the required 60 hours of clinical project practicum time, however it is possible for students to complete their hours in a more condensed time frame if desired. Clinical hours are flexible and are arranged individually to meet the needs of both the student and the preceptor. Preceptors do not need to evaluate student work as faculty evaluate all student work in this program.

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE - College of Nursing**

**N445X Capstone Course for Registered Nurses**

**COMPETENCIES:** Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Provide safe and effective patient centered care to individuals, families, groups and communities.
2. Integrate professional standards, evidence, clinical expertise, patient preferences and clinical judgment to improve the outcomes of care.
3. Demonstrate transition to professional baccalaureate nursing practice by recognizing the impact of evidence based practice, informatics, quality, safety, teamwork, collaboration and patient centered care on outcomes of care.
4. Demonstrate effective communication and collaboration in the professional nursing role.
5. Articulate a commitment to lifelong learning and individual accountability for own nursing practice.

Questions?

View our Capstone resources web page at:

[http://uwm.edu/nursing/academics/undergrad/capstone-resources/](http://uwm.edu/nursing/academics/undergrad/capstone-resources/)

Or contact:

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