

Syllabus

Course Overview

This course examines the role of health care policy, and legal, regulatory, and quality control in ethical decision making in professional nursing practice. You will explore concepts and principles of health care policy, legal control, ethical conduct, and regulatory environments and their application to the health care environment and the nursing profession. You will evaluate the impact of health care policy and multicultural, socioeconomic, political, legal, and regulatory factors on disparities in health care access. You will examine ways to communicate the needs of individuals, communities, and vulnerable populations to colleagues, consumers, and appropriate officials. You will also focus on the importance of cultural competence and ethical decision making in professional nursing practice.

In this course, you will complete a project in which you evaluate the impact of a selected health care policy on a specific nursing issue through the application of the ethic of care policy analysis framework. Based on the analysis outcomes, you will draw conclusions regarding the effectiveness of current policy responses to a selected nursing problem. Based on these conclusions, you will make recommendations for policy changes, including multicultural, socioeconomic, political, legal, and regulatory factors for improving health care access and outcomes. The material included, conclusions drawn, and recommendations made should be grounded in the related empirical and theoretical literature. The course includes four assignments designed to aid you in building this project.

Course Competencies

(Read Only)

To successfully complete this course, you will be expected to:

- 1 Analyze the impact of health care policy and legislative processes on health care delivery and patient outcomes.
- 2 Analyze the impact of regulatory environments and controls on health care delivery and patient outcomes.
- 3 Analyze the impact of the legal environment and professional liability on health care delivery and patient outcomes.
- 4 Incorporate professional ethical standards and behaviors into one's own nursing practice.
- 5 Communicate in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of a nursing professional.

Course Prerequisites

Prerequisite(s): *Completion of or concurrent enrollment in BSN4012.*

Syllabus >> Course Materials

Required

The materials listed below are required to complete the learning activities in this course.

Integrated Materials

Many of your required books are available via the VitalSource Bookshelf link in the courseroom, located in your Course Tools. Registered learners in a Resource Kit program can access these materials using the courseroom link on the Friday before the course start date. Some materials are available only in hard-copy format or by using an access code. For these materials, you will receive an email with further instructions for access. Visit the [Course Materials](#) page on Campus for more information.

Book

Guido, G. W. (2014). *Legal and ethical issues in nursing* (6th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. ISBN: 9780133355871.

Mason, D. J., Gardner, D. B., Outlaw, F. H., & O'Grady, E. T. (Eds.). (2016). *Policy & politics in nursing and health care* (7th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier. ISBN: 9780323241441.

Library

The following required readings are provided in the Capella University Library or linked directly in this course. To find specific readings by journal or book title, use [Journal and Book Locator](#). Refer to the [Journal and Book Locator library guide](#) to learn how to use this tool.

- American Nurses Association. (2015). *Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements*. Silver Spring, MD: Author.
- *Keeping health care reform healthy, patients informed*. (2013, Fall). *The Tennessee Nurse*, 76(3), 11.
- Lachman, V. D. (2012). *Ethical challenges in the era of health care reform*. *Medsburg Nursing*, 21(4), 248–250.
- Lachman, V. D., Swanson, E. O., & Winland-Brown, J. (2015). *The new 'Code of Ethics for Nurses With Interpretive Statements' (2015): Practical clinical application, part II*. *Medsurg Nursing*, 24(5), 363–366, 368.
- Marion, L., Douglas, M., Lavin, M. A., Barr, N., Gazaway, S., Thomas, E., & Bickford, C. (2017). *Implementing the new ANA standard 8: Culturally congruent practice*. *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, 22(1), 1–14.
- Mitchell, F. M. (2015). *Racial and ethnic health disparities in an era of health care reform*. *Health & Social Work*, 40(3), 66–74.
- Winland-Brown, J., Lachman, V. D., Swanson, E. O. (2015). *The new 'Code of Ethics for Nurses With Interpretive Statements' (2015): Practical clinical application, part I*. *Medsburg Nursing*, 24(4), 268–271.

External Resource

Please note that URLs change frequently. While the URLs were current when this course was designed, some may no longer be valid. If you cannot access a specific link, contact your instructor for an alternative URL. Permissions for the following links have been either granted or deemed appropriate for educational use at the time of course publication.

- American Nurses Association. (2010). [The nurses role in ethics and human rights: Protecting and promoting individual worth, dignity, and human rights in practice settings \[PDF\]](https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/official-position-statements/id/the-nurses-role-in-ethics-and-human-rights/). Retrieved from <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/official-position-statements/id/the-nurses-role-in-ethics-and-human-rights/>
- American Nurses Association. (2011). [Current legislation](http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/Policy-Advocacy/State/Legislative-Agenda-Reports). Retrieved from <http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/Policy-Advocacy/State/Legislative-Agenda-Reports>
- American Nurses Association. (2013). [ANA Position Statement on Ethics and Human Rights](https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/official-position-statements/id/the-nurses-role-in-ethics-and-human-rights/). <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/official-position-statements/id/the-nurses-role-in-ethics-and-human-rights/>
- American Nurses Association. (2013). [Ethical challenges in the era of health care reform \[PDF\]](http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/Resources/Ethical-Challenges-in-the-Era-of-Health-Care-Reform.pdf). Retrieved from <http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/Resources/Ethical-Challenges-in-the-Era-of-Health-Care-Reform.pdf>
- American Nurses Association. (2013). [Healthy work environment](http://nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/WorkplaceSafety/Healthy-Work-Environment). Retrieved from <http://nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/WorkplaceSafety/Healthy-Work-Environment>
- American Nurses Association. (2013). [Keeping health care reform healthy, patients informed](https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/health-policy/health-system-reform/). Retrieved from <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/health-policy/health-system-reform/>
- American Nurses Association. (2017). [Strategies to address the new nursing shortage](http://nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ThePracticeofProfessionalNursing/workforce/NursingShortage/LegislationStrategies/NursingShortage). Retrieved from <http://nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ThePracticeofProfessionalNursing/workforce/NursingShortage/LegislationStrategies/NursingShortage>
- American Nurses Association. (n.d.). [Health system reform](https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/health-policy/health-system-reform/). Retrieved from <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/health-policy/health-system-reform/>
- Federal Register: The Daily Journal of the United States Government. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.federalregister.gov/>
- Improving Chronic Illness Care. (2013). [The chronic care model](http://www.improvingchroniccare.org/index.php?p=The_Chronic_Care_Model&s=2). Retrieved from http://www.improvingchroniccare.org/index.php?p=The_Chronic_Care_Model&s=2
- International Council of Nurses. (2013). Retrieved from <http://www.icn.ch/>
- National Center on Elder Abuse (n.d.). [State resources](https://ncea.acl.gov/Resources/State.aspx). Retrieved from <https://ncea.acl.gov/Resources/State.aspx>
- National Coalition on Health Care. (2012). [Curbing costs improving care: The path to an affordable health care future](https://nchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/NCHC-Plan-for-Health-and-Fiscal-Policy.pdf). Retrieved from <https://nchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/NCHC-Plan-for-Health-and-Fiscal-Policy.pdf>
- National Conference of State Legislatures. (2013). [State legislative websites directory](http://www.ncsl.org/aboutus/ncslservice/state-legislative-websites-directory.aspx). Retrieved from <http://www.ncsl.org/aboutus/ncslservice/state-legislative-websites-directory.aspx>
- National Conference of State Legislatures. (2015, November 9). [Health disparities overview](http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/health-disparities-overview.aspx). Retrieved from <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/health-disparities-overview.aspx>
- Nightingales. (n.d.). [The Nightingales nurses](http://www.nightingalesnurses.org). Retrieved from <http://www.nightingalesnurses.org>
- Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (n.d.). [Reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov/public). Retrieved from <http://www.reginfo.gov/public>
- Qualis Health. (n.d.). [Patient-centered medical home transformation](http://www.qhmedicalhome.org). Retrieved from <http://www.qhmedicalhome.org>
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (2013). Retrieved from www.rwjf.org
- Salisbury University Student Nurses Association. (2010). [Resources](http://orgs.salisbury.edu/sna/resources.htm). Retrieved from <http://orgs.salisbury.edu/sna/resources.htm>
- The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (n.d.). [Health coverage and uninsured](http://kff.org/state-category/health-coverage-uninsured/). Retrieved from <http://kff.org/state-category/health-coverage-uninsured/>
- United States House of Representatives. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.house.gov>
- United States Senate. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.senate.gov>
- USA.gov. Retrieved from <http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/State-and-Territories.shtml>

Suggested

The following materials are recommended to provide you with a better understanding of the topics in this course. These materials are not required to complete the course, but they are aligned to course activities and assessments and are highly recommended for your use.

Optional

The following optional materials are offered to provide you with a better understanding of the topics in this course. These materials are not required to complete the course.

External Resource

Please note that URLs change frequently. While the URLs were current when this course was designed, some may no longer be valid. If you cannot access a specific link, contact your instructor for an alternative URL. Permissions for the following links have been either granted or deemed appropriate for educational use at the time of course publication.

- U.S. Department of Education. (n.d.). [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](https://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html) <https://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (n.d.). [Summary of the HIPAA privacy rule](https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/index.html) <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/index.html>

Projects

Project >> Health Care and Nursing Policy Critique

Project Overview

This course focuses on health care policy and financing; legal and regulatory processes that define health care delivery systems and nursing practice; disparities in health care access and outcomes; the ethic of care in policy analysis; and processes of ethical decision making in professional nursing practice. In this course project, you will evaluate the impact of a selected health care policy on a specific nursing issue through the application of the ethic of care policy analysis framework.

Based on the outcomes of your analysis, draw conclusions regarding the effectiveness of current policy responses to a selected nursing problem. Then, based on these conclusions, make recommendations for policy changes, including multicultural, socioeconomic, political, legal, and regulatory factors in improving health care access and outcomes. The material included, conclusions drawn, and recommendations made should be grounded in the related empirical and theoretical literature.

The project consists of four assignments:

- **Unit 2:** Health Care and Nursing Issue.
- **Unit 5:** Policy Boundaries.
- **Unit 8:** Policy Analysis.
- **Unit 10:** Health Care and Nursing Policy Critique. (Submit this to [ePortfolio](#))

Format

Unit 2: Health Care and Nursing Issue (3–5 pages). For this assignment, you will:

- Select a current health care and nursing issue in the provision of care to a vulnerable population.
- Write a 3–5 page paper, excluding cover sheet and references, in which you do the following:
 - Describe the nature and extent of the issue or problem.
 - Describe who the issue or problem affects (both the target population and health care professionals).
 - Describe the short- and long-term effects of the problem on the target population and the health care system.
 - Discuss the theoretical frameworks for understanding the existence of the issue or problem.
 - Discuss the ethical issues this problem raises in the delivery of health care.
- Include a reference list that is appropriate to the body of literature available on this topic and that has been published in the past five years.
- Cite and include a minimum of three sources, with the majority being from peer-reviewed sources.
- Adhere to APA style and formatting throughout your paper and when citing your sources.

Unit 5: Policy Boundaries (3–5 pages). For this assignment, you will:

- Build on the Health Care and Nursing Issue assignment you submitted in Unit 2.
- Write a 3–5 page paper (excluding cover sheet and references) that clearly lays out policies that define health care and nursing practice with this issue or problem.
- Include in your paper:
 - Legislation.
 - Executive decisions.
 - Court decisions.
 - Regulations that have defined this area of health care delivery and nursing practice, historically and today.
- Discuss the legal and ethical considerations that have influenced policy decision making regarding this issue.
- Use scholarly sources that address the social, historical, and political context of the research, theories, and methods related to your topic.
- Cite a minimum of three sources with the majority being peer-reviewed sources. Your reference list should be appropriate to the body of literature available on this topic that has been published in the past five years.
- Use APA style and formatting throughout your paper and when citing your sources.

Unit 8: Policy Analysis (3–5 pages). For this assignment, you will:

Write a 3–5 page paper analyzing current policy that directs care related to your topic of interest. You should use an ethics framework that considers each of the following points:

- How attentive is the policy to the needs of health care consumers? Is health care accessible, affordable, and appropriate?
- Who is responsible for ensuring that care is delivered to those in need? In what ways do they meet this responsibility? In what ways do they fall short?
- How competent is the system of care that is responsible for the delivery of care on all levels, from individual staff to the system level?
- How responsive is the system of care to those in need of care? Is the system more responsive to some than others? Who gets left out?

- What are the consequences of this policy in terms of quality of care and access to care? Who suffers and in what ways?

This analysis paper builds on the information and knowledge you gathered in writing the nursing issues paper in Unit 2 and the policy boundaries paper in Unit 5. Remember that policy can be formed from legislation, executive orders, court decisions, and governmental or professional regulations.

- Cite a minimum of three peer-reviewed sources with the majority being peer-reviewed sources. Be sure to find and use policy evaluation studies in addition to other empirical research to support your analysis.
- Your reference list should be appropriate to the body of literature available on this topic that has been published in the past five years.
- Use APA style and formatting throughout your paper and when citing your sources. You may find it helpful to use section headings to organize the analysis.

Unit 10: Health Care and Nursing Policy Critique (5–7 pages):

Portfolio Prompt: You are required to save this learning activity to your ePortfolio.

For this assignment, you will:

Develop a 5–7 page that critiques the extent to which the policies, legislation, and regulatory environment effectively address the health care or nursing problem that has been your focus during this course. The paper will:

- Identify and summarize the health care and nursing problem that has been the focus of analysis for this course project. Identify why this issue was important to you.
- Summarize the policies, legislative, and legal considerations related to the focus topic.
- Distinguish the social, historical, and/or political context for the focus topic.
- Critique the policies that define and direct care related to the focus topic.
 - To what extent does the policy support the provision of comprehensive care? To what extent does it fragment care?
 - What are the power relations between those in need of care and those providing care (both the institutions and its individual members)? How empowering is the policy for patients, for nursing care providers, and for institutions in the health care system?
 - What challenges to care or gaps in care does this policy present?
 - How well does the policy reflect the ANA Code of Ethics?
 - What ethical issues does this policy raise in the delivery of care, and in the maintenance or creation of health disparities?
- Draw some conclusions about the current state of affairs regarding the policy and health care issue based upon your policy analysis and evaluation and reference materials.
- Make recommendations for policy changes that would ameliorate the gaps in health care and nursing policy, from an ethics of care perspective, based on your conclusions. Provide rationale, and empirical and theoretical supports for your recommendations.
- Suggest some methods for creating change within the legislative, judicial, or regulatory processes.
- **Written communication:** Written communication should be free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA formatting:** Resources and citations should be formatted according to [APA style and formatting](#).
- **Number of resources:** At least 7 creditable references published within the last five years.
- **Length of paper:** At least 5-7 double-spaced pages (excluding cover page, abstract, table of contents and reference list).
- **Font and font size:** Times New Roman, 12 point.

Project Components

Activity	Grade Weight (%)
u02a1 - Health Care and Nursing Issue	10
u05a1 - Policy Boundaries	10
u08a1 - Policy Analysis	10
u10a1 - Health Care and Nursing Policy Critique	30

Unit 1 >> Ethical and Moral Foundations of Nursing Practice

Introduction

Nurses routinely face difficult decisions in the course of their daily nursing practices. Often, these decisions involve balancing human rights with medical necessities, family wishes, and/or legal or ethical mandates. When an unanticipated event occurs, there are numerous issues that can inform or occlude decisions about meeting the needs of an individual or group, including understanding and upholding their rights and desires, mediating conflicting family wishes, and applying established ethical and legal standards of nursing care practice.

Use the Riverbend simulation as well as the readings for this unit to respond to discussion one.

This unit provides an overview of the knowledge bases that have evolved over time to help nurses make good decisions and successfully navigate the ethical dilemmas frequently encountered in nursing practice. The following knowledge bases will be introduced and applied in this unit:

- Ethical and legal standards of practice.
- Ethical theories.
- The American Nurses Association's Code of Ethics.
- The American Nurses Association's Policy Statements on Ethics and Human Rights.
- The MORAL model in ethical decision making.

Ethical Theories

Ethics have been at the core of human dialogue since early civilization, as humans struggled to find common guidelines for living orderly and moral lives. These historic and ongoing discussions have evolved a range of understanding on how to live a good and "right" life individually and in a community, and have taken the form of ethical theories. Some theories are grounded in the duty that binds humans together (deontological theories); others are guided by consequences of actions (teleological theories); and still other theories are more concerned with the application of ethical principles (principalism), as is often the case in decision making in nursing practice. The ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, veracity, fidelity, paternalism, justice, and respect for others provide nurses with a framework for decision making in nursing practice (Guido, 2010).

Ethical Standards

Ethical standards of care are a necessary element for any profession, and nursing has established and adopted its own code of ethics as put forth by the American Nurses Association. This code is endorsed by its membership and by the nursing community as a whole. The nurse's code of ethics is an essential tool for practicing nurses because it highlights the core principles of practice mentioned above. Ideals, principles, and values are of little use until they are put into action in daily practice. Knowledge of the nurse's code of ethics provides the nurse with the foundation for implementing what is right and good for patient and family care.

Legal Standards

Legal standards of care for nursing are set and adopted in legislative and judicial settings. To practice within sound ethical and legal boundaries, nurses must be intimately familiar with legal standards of care as defined by the nursing practice acts, other legislated law, and important case law.

Ethical Models of Decision Making

While ethical decision making is central to nursing practice, it is rarely easy. Models for reaching difficult decisions or for evaluating decisions made by others can be useful tools as the nurse traverses the difficult ethical terrain of nursing practice. The MORAL model of decision making provides five practical steps to help nurses in the ethical decision making process:

- **M**essage the dilemma.
- **O**utline the options.
- **R**esolve the dilemma.
- **A**ct by applying the chosen option.
- **L**ook back and evaluate the entire process (Guido, 2010).

The art of nursing is, in part, the application of ethical and legal standards of care across multiple practice settings at the clinical, administrative, organizational, community, and policy levels of practice. Since its early inception, nursing has been at the fore of defining the boundaries of practice through setting community standards, patient advocacy, and political activism. Nursing advocates continue to make the expert voice of the profession heard in the courts and legislative halls across the nation. Applying and defining the standards of nursing practice and evolving the role of nursing in the health care delivery system is a responsibility that comes with the title of "nurse."

Reference

Guido, G. W. (2010). *Legal and ethical issues in nursing* (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Learning Activities

u01s1 - Studies

Scheduling Your Weekly Workload

At the beginning of your degree program, it can be hard to adjust your busy schedule to make time for coursework. To help you structure your time and meet your coursework due dates, a workload schedule has been created for you. Your workload schedule will not be evaluated by your instructor. It is

intended as a guide to help you get a successful start in your journey at Capella. You are encouraged to use your workload schedule as it best suits your individual needs. For example, you may find it helpful to print it and post it somewhere convenient.

At the start of this week, read the [Workload Schedule \[DOC\]](#) for Unit 1 and use it to plan your tasks. You are also encouraged to refer to the Campus [Time Management](#) resources for additional support in planning your workload.

Readings

In the *Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing* text, read the following:

- Chapter 3, "Introduction to Ethics," pages 31–41. This chapter discusses the ethical decisions encountered by nurses throughout their professional practice.
- Chapter 5, "Standards of Care," pages 54–67. This chapter discusses the foundations of standards of care and provides a description of how standards of care are derived and defined within the legal system.

In the *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care* text, read the following:

- Chapter 2, "Historical Perspective on Policy, Politics, and Nursing," pages 22–29. This chapter provides a historical account of policy and politics in the nursing profession.
- Chapter 15, "Health Policy, Politics, and Professional Ethics," pages 137–149. This chapter presents some HIPAA horror stories, as well as professional ethics essentials in the nursing profession.

Use the Capella University Library to complete the following:

- Read Winland-Brown, J., Lachman, V. D., Swanson, E. O. (2015). [The New 'Code of Ethics for Nurses With Interpretive Statements' \(2015\): Practical Clinical Application, Part I. Medsurg Nursing, 24\(4\), 268–271.](#)
- Read Lachman, V. D., Swanson, E. O., & Winland-Brown, J. (2015). [The New 'Code of Ethics for Nurses With Interpretive Statements' \(2015\): Practical Clinical Application, Part II. Medsurg Nursing, 24\(5\), 363–366, 368.](#)
- Read [Keeping health care reform healthy, patients informed.](#) (2013, Fall). *The Tennessee Nurse*, 76(3), 11.

Use the Internet to complete the following:

- Read American Nurses Association's 2013 Web page, [ANA Position Statement on Ethics and Human Rights.](#)
- Read American Nurses Association's 2010 article, ["The Nurse's Role in Ethics and Human Rights: Protecting and Promoting Individual Worth, Dignity, and Human Rights in Practice Setting \[PDF\]."](#)

u01s2 - Course Project Preparation

For the course project, you are required to complete the following components for the Health Care and Nursing Policy Critique Project:

- Read the course project description to learn the requirements of this course project.
- Complete a total of four assignments for this course project. These are as follows:
 - **Unit 2**—Health Care and Nursing Issue.
 - **Unit 5**—Policy Boundaries.
 - **Unit 8**—Policy Analysis.
 - **Unit 10**—Health Care and Nursing Critique.

u01s3 - Riverbend City: Policy Mission

In addition to the media elements you have encountered in previous Capella courses, in this course you will explore a simulation of Riverbend City. The city has experienced a serious accident, and you will be guided through the city, exploring the different agencies, organizations, and individuals who are affected by the accident.

In this unit, you will discuss how a city's policies reflect the ethical and moral fiber of a community. To prepare for this, you will go to the Riverbend City simulation and follow the provided mission. Pay particular attention to how the planning and existing policies prepared or failed to prepare Riverbend City for the disaster it experienced.

In this first mission, you will listen to the mayor's staff respond to a recent report commissioned by the city council. The report has found several areas that are in need of improvement, but any improvement in one area is likely to mean reductions in another area. You will be able to download the executive summary of this report for later reference, as well as some other documents that will help you analyze Riverbend City's current preparedness.

You will also visit the Riverbend City Medical Center and observe how the policies and conditions affect the hospital's ability to respond to the accident. Finally, you will return to the City County building to observe a press conference – not about the commission's report, but rather addressing the concerns related to the accident.

Click **Riverbend City: Policy Mission** to complete the multimedia presentation.

Course Resources

Riverbend City: Policy Mission

u01s4 - Your Online ePortfolio

Online ePortfolios serve two key purposes: 1) to support learning and reflection, and 2) to be used as a showcase tool. Your learning journey can be documented, and ePortfolios contribute to lifelong learning and growth through reflection and sharing. Online ePortfolios can also be shared with employers and peers to present artifacts that demonstrate your accomplishments at Capella.

Using ePortfolio to Prepare for Your Capstone

Your program may culminate in a capstone course. At that time you may be required to show evidence of your learning throughout the program by referring to multiple assessments that you have created. You will be telling a story about your learning throughout the program using artifacts you have collected during many of these courses.

Using ePortfolio to Build Your Career

As you are preparing to tell your story in the professional world, leverage your ePortfolio artifacts to demonstrate the knowledge and competencies you have gained through your program in professional conversations, performance reviews, and interviews.

To do that, reflect on the knowledge and skills you have gained from your courses and the elements you have put in your portfolio, along with how you have already applied these things to your professional life or how you might apply them in the future.

Next, create your story or talking points to tell your professional story.

Saving Your Documents to ePortfolio

You will need a place to store your documents in an organized fashion so that you can access them at a later date. Do not rely on the courseroom for storage, as you will lose access to the courseroom after you have completed the course. Capella uses a cloud-based portfolio platform to facilitate your organization of the artifacts you create throughout your program.

To make an online portfolio useful, it is essential that it is organized clearly and that important files of any format are accessible. Read the [Online ePortfolio Guidelines \[PDF\]](#) to ensure you set up your online portfolio correctly. For more information on ePortfolio visit the Campus [ePortfolio](#) page.

Privacy Statement

Capella complies with privacy laws designed to protect the privacy of personal information. While you may voluntarily share your own information publicly, you are obligated to protect the personal information of others that may be associated with your academic or professional development. Before sharing information and material in any ePortfolio that is set up to be shared externally to your program at Capella, please consider privacy obligations in relation to protected populations who may be included or referenced in your academic or clinical work. Refer to the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) and/or the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(HIPAA\)](#) if you have specific questions or concerns about your choices.

u01d1 - Ethics of Emergency Preparedness

Nurses are leaders in public safety and disaster preparedness on multiple levels within the community and health care setting. As members of the community and of the nursing profession, nurses can be instrumental in the development and implementation of an emergency preparedness plans within their workplaces and communities. In order to be effective, nurses must be cognizant of internal and external factors that prevent their workplaces and cities from quickly making necessary changes in processes or procedures. These factors may impact moral and ethical decision making and be contrary to established ethical and legal standards of nursing practice. For this discussion, post a response to the following:

- What impact would the activation of the disaster emergency plan have on the Riverbend medical center nurses' abilities to provide a safe standard of care given recent changes within the city's emergency preparedness?
- What ethical and legal standards of nursing practice need to be considered within the facility and community?

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial posts found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, critique your peer's assessment of the practice case. Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with their post on the ethical and legal standards of nursing practice that need to be considered within the facility and community during the disaster. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Module](#)

u01d2 - Nursing Practice and Code of Ethics

For this discussion:

- Describe the American Nurses Association's *Code of Ethics for Nurses* (linked in Resources). What does it mean to you and your practice in the state in which you live?

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial posts found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, critique your peer's response to the discussion question. Be sure to support your position with references to the literature and follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[Code of Ethics for Nurses With Interpretive Statements](#)

[APA Module](#)

Unit 2 >> Ethics of Care: A Policy Analysis Framework

Introduction

Nursing is essentially about caring, and this fundamental element is reflected in the language of the profession, with terms such as *nursing care* and the *art of nursing*. This unit introduces the Ethics of Care framework for developing and implementing nursing and health care policy. The Ethics of Care framework seems an appropriate fit for nursing as it reflects nursing values of collaboration and collectivity, and makes caring central to the policy-making process.

Fisher and Tronto (1991) defined *care* as "a species of activity that includes everything that we do to maintain, continue, and repair our 'world' so that we can live in it as well as possible. That world includes our bodies, our selves, and our environment, all of which we seek to interweave in a complex, life-sustaining web" (p. 40). How care is given affects everyone, and so it should be of utmost importance to how society structures its health care delivery systems, and how care is defined and delivered to patients, families, and communities. The Ethics of Care framework is concerned with specific elements of care that include attentiveness, responsibility, competence, responsiveness, and the integration of care (Hugman, 2003; Meahger & Parton, 2004; Tronto, 1995, 1998).

Attentiveness: From an ethics of care perspective, health care and nursing policy ought to attend to not only the target population, but also to those who care for them, the communities they live in, and the impact of the unmet need on the human web of life (Tronto, 1995, 1998).

Responsibility: The ethics of care approach endorses the idea that responsibility for care should be shared with and include family, friends, community, and government agencies. Health care policies should encourage the inclusion and enhance the collaboration of care givers (Tronto, 1995, 1998).

Competence: Competent care takes into consideration the skill and abilities of both formal and informal care givers, and is concerned with not only the appropriateness and quality of care given, but also that care is given in a way that it is readily received by the care receiver. Care givers include individuals (professional and lay), communities, agencies, and organizations. To the extent that these entities of care are able to provide appropriate and adequate resources for quality care, and demonstrate acceptance and inclusion of the care receiver and those who care about them, care is elevated to a central position in policy making and service delivery processes. Care giver competence is assessed by the standards of care set by best practices of professions and by legal standards, and also by community and family standards. As such, they are sensitive to the geographic and cultural ways of caring which are important to care receivers and those who care about them (Tronto 1995, 1998)

Responsiveness: Responsive policies and systems of care want to know how care receivers respond to the care that they are given physically, emotionally, psychologically, and culturally, and also how well the care process corresponds with the needs of the care receiver (Tronto, 1995, 1998). Black (2005) characterizes responsiveness as demonstrating a collaborative relationship between the client and the health care provider (p. 418).

Integration of care: Integrated care is experienced as seamless, comprehensive, and collaborative by the care receiver. Integrated systems of care work together to physically, psychologically, and politically empower care receivers while acknowledging their contributions as care givers in other domains of their lives (Tronto, 1995, 1998).

As health care professionals and political agents of the profession, nurses strive to elevate the elements of care as reflected in the Ethics of Care framework in their personal practices, and in the standards of care within health care organizations and professions.

References

- Black, R. M. (2005). Intersections of care: An analysis of culturally competent care, client centered care, and the feminist ethic of care. *Work*, 24(4), 409–422.
- Fisher, B., & Tronto, J. C. (1991). Toward a feminist theory of caring. In E. Abel & M. Nelson (Eds.), *Circles of care: Work and identity in women's lives*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.
- Hugman, R. (2003). Professional ethics in social work: Living with the legacy. *Australian Social Work*, 56(1), 5–15.
- Meahger, G., & Parton, N. (2004). Modernizing social work and the ethics of care. *Social Work and Society*, 2(1), 10–27.
- Tronto, J. C. (1995). Care as a basis for radical political judgments. *Hypatia*, 10(2), 141–149.
- Tronto, J. C. (1998). An ethic of care. *Generations*, 22(3), 15–21.

Learning Activities

u02s1 - Studies

Workload Schedule

At the start of this week, read the [Workload Schedule \[DOC\]](#) for this unit and use it to plan your tasks.

Readings

In the *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care* text, read the following:

- Chapter 16, "The Changing United States Health Care System," pages 151–162. This chapter discusses the highly complex U.S. health care system.

Use the Capella University Library to complete the following:

- Read Lachman, V. D. (2012). [Ethical challenges in the era of health care reform](#). *Medsburg Nursing*, 21(4), 248–250.

Use the Internet to complete the following:

- Read American Nurses Association's 2013 article, ["Ethical Challenges in the Era of Health Care Reform \[PDF\]"](#).

u02a1 - Health Care and Nursing Issue

Read the Health Care and Nursing Policy Critique Project Description and Scoring Guide for all details related to your final course project.

For this assignment:

- Select a current health care or nursing issue in your work environment or in the literature in the provision of care to a vulnerable population.
- Write a 3–5 page paper, excluding cover sheet and references that covers the following:
 - Description of the nature and extent of the issue or problem.
 - Description of who the issue or problem affects (including both the target population and health care professionals).
 - Description of the short- and long-term effects of the problem on the target population and the health care system.
 - Discussion points on the theoretical frameworks for understanding the existence of the issue or problem.
 - Discussion points on the ethical issues this problem raises in the delivery of health care.
- Include a reference list that is appropriate to the body of literature available on this topic that has been published in the past five years.
- Cite and include a minimum of three peer-reviewed sources.
- Adhere to APA style and formatting throughout your paper and when citing your sources.

Read the Health Care and Nursing Issue Scoring Guide to learn the requirements for this assignment and how you will be evaluated.

Note: Your instructor may also use the Writing Feedback Tool to provide feedback on your writing. In the tool, click on the linked resources for helpful writing information.

Course Resources

[Using the Library](#)

[Capella University Library: Search Tips and Tricks](#)

[How Do I Find Peer-Reviewed Articles?](#)

[Capella Writing Center](#)

[Writing Feedback Tool](#)

[APA Style Paper Tutorial \[DOCX\]](#)

[APA Style Paper Template \[DOCX\]](#)

[APA Module](#)

u02d1 - Ethics in the U.S. Health Care System

Select one of the following U.S. health care system components. Based on the ethics of care model (attentiveness, responsibility, competence, responsiveness, and the integration of care), discuss which principles and values inherent in the chosen system align or do not align with the ANA Code of Ethics. As an advocate, what suggestions could the nurse make to better align the system to the code of ethics?

- Long-Term Care.
- Home Health Care.
- Mental Health Care.
- Active-Duty Military Personnel and Veterans Care.

This discussion will prepare you for future assignments.

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial posts found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella library.

Response Guidelines

For your response post, select posts that assess different components of the health care system from the one chosen by you. Critique each of their assessments and state the extent to which you agree or disagree with their positions. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Module](#)

[Code of Ethics for Nurses With Interpretive Statements](#)

Unit 3 >> Elements of the Health Care Environment

Introduction

Disparities in access to and outcomes from health care have been a growing concern in the recent decades as the number of uninsured has increased and access to quality affordable health care has declined. Without health insurance, many people delay seeking care until their illness and symptoms have reached an advanced stage. These unattended conditions have profound impact on health outcomes for those without access to health care. This occurs most often among vulnerable groups in society who are already at risk of disease, poor health outcomes, and premature death.

Health care systems are structured and funded, and their methods for providing access to care are determined, by policy decisions. As such, policy is of critical importance to nursing practice, health care delivery systems, and methods of care. Policy defines the boundaries of professional practice (what nurses can do and what they cannot do), who receives care, and who does not. For example, health care access for certain population is determined by eligibility for public health care through programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, and State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP). Expanding eligibility criteria has not only helped to provide care for more and more uninsured population in many states, but it also puts states in fiscally precarious positions. State health care costs continue to rise, and are projected to consume 50 percent of the state's budget by 2012 (National Coalition on Health Care, 2009).

Through legislative action, the policy is made and implemented, and determines health care practices in the rule-making process, court decisions, and executive decisions at the federal, state, local, and organizational levels. Participation in the policy-making processes affords the nursing profession the voice and the power to define itself and its roles in the public and private health care systems.

This unit provides an overview of the legal systems and processes that make policies, current issues that health care professionals face, and factors that are driving up health care costs. You will also read examples of how nurses can take action that will influence policy decisions, and in doing so, actively participate in resolving some of the nursing and health care problems that the profession and nation face today.

Reference

National Coalition on Health Care (2009). Containing costs and avoiding tax increases while improving quality: Affordable coverage and high value care. Retrieved from [http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/_docs/resources/2010-23-09NCHCWHITEPAPERIDENTIFIESOVER\\$1TRILLIONINCOST-SAVINGSExecutiveSummary.pdf](http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/_docs/resources/2010-23-09NCHCWHITEPAPERIDENTIFIESOVER$1TRILLIONINCOST-SAVINGSExecutiveSummary.pdf)

Learning Activities

u03s1 - Studies

Workload Schedule

At the start of this week, read the [Workload Schedule \[DOC\]](#) for this unit and use it to plan your tasks.

Readings

In the *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care* text, read the following:

- Chapter 40, "Contemporary Issues in Government," pages 335–352. This chapter discusses the contemporary issues in government, including the state budget crisis, emerging health policy issues, bioterrorism, the uninsured, and obesity.
- Chapter 41, "How Government Works: What You Need to Know to Influence the Process," pages 356–369. This chapter discusses federal, state, and local governments.

Use the Capella library and the Internet to complete the following:

- Marion, L., Douglas, M., Lavin, M. A., Barr, N., Gazaway, S., Thomas, E., & Bickford, C. (2017). [Implementing the new ANA standard 8: Culturally congruent practice](#). *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, 22(1), 1–14.
- Visit the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation's 2017 Web page, [Health Coverage and Uninsured](#). Discover who is insured and who is not in your state using the page.
- Read National Conference of State Legislatures's 2015 article, "[Health Disparities Overview](#)," to get insights on what is going on in your state and examine health state laws addressing health disparities in the article.
- Read American Nurses Association "[ANA Position Statement on Ethics and Human Rights](#)."

u03s2 - Riverbend City: Ethics Mission

Visit the Riverbend City Medical Center and observe the moral, ethical, and emotional issues being dealt with by the medical center staff. You will discuss your findings in this week's discussion activity, focusing on the question of triage and the logic models that inform a nurse's decision making.

Click **Riverbend City: Ethics Mission** to complete the presentation.

Course Resources

Riverbend City: Ethics Mission

u03d1 - Health Issues

For this discussion, select one of the following health issues and describe the current legislative, regulatory, and executive policies that regulate this issue within your state. How do these policies restrict or expand your nursing practice according to the ANA's position statement?

- Stem cell research.
- Medical marijuana.
- Assisted suicide.
- Human genome.
- Genetic medicine.

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial posts found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella library.

Response Guidelines

For your response post, select posts reflecting different health issues from the one chosen by you. Provide additional insights regarding the health issue and address the following:

- Discuss the similarities and differences of your health issue.
- Expand upon the learner's responses to the questions addressed.

The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

APA Module

u03d2 - Moral Dilemmas and Ethical Decisions in Practice

When you visited the RCMC emergency department in the Riverbend scenario, you saw the nurse triage two individuals who were both affected by the released chemicals.

1. One is a 32-year-old firefighter, Frank Jeffers, who was injured at the scene while evacuating victims. He is a married homeowner and father of two young boys, who has lived in the community all his life. He has full and comprehensive health insurance through his employer.
2. The other is Brent Damascus, a 58-year-old man. Brent is well known at RCMC. He is a frequent visitor to the emergency room for various complaints, including asthma, headaches, and tremors. He is homeless, unemployed, and uninsured who stays many nights at the YMCA and eats lunch at the soup kitchen. He has lived in the community for over 10 years and has been arrested several times for petty theft.

Now imagine that these two men arrived at the emergency room at same time, presenting with very similar inhalation injuries. The points to consider are:

1. What factors will be considered as the triage nurse decides where to begin?
2. What elements of health care disparity may surface in the decision making?
3. What are the moral and ethical issues in this scenario and how might you resolve each four of them?

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial postings found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, provide substantive feedback. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

Unit 4 >> Public Policy and the Legislative Process

Introduction

Knowing the legislative process helps nurse advocates and professional nursing organizations to inform legislators on key concerns in health care, and to improve policy choices where health care issues or nursing practice concerns are being addressed. Building relationships with elected officials is a first step to being engaged in the policy-making process and sharing professional expertise with policy decision makers. A few of the essential advocacy skills that nurses need in order to effectively participate in health care reform are:

- Knowing how to locate bills.

- Understanding the content of bills and implications for practice.
- Understanding how to provide testimony to legislative committees on the impact of proposed bills.

"It is important that nurses are represented in the formation of health care policy and that nursing values, knowledge, and expertise are shared with politicians so that cost effective, quality -health care legislation can be achieved" (Kennedy-Stuart, 2016, p. 1)

Staying informed about the state of health affairs is important to the advocacy process. In this unit, you will:

- Review the legislative process and will be introduced to state legislative Web sites.
- Learn to locate proposed health-related bills that would impact health disparities in your state.
- Compare health disparities in your state with national rates through web research on health disparities and state initiatives.

An important part of understanding nursing policy is the ability to analyze a policy or a system of care from a perspective that reflects the values and mission of the nursing profession. Building on the ethics of care framework introduced in Unit 2, you will expand your policy skills by applying an ethics of care analysis to a selected proposed health care bill in your state. This preliminary analysis helps you assess the bill's potential for improving health care access and quality of care, and ultimately reducing health disparities. When assessing health care from an ethics of care perspective, it is important to include questions that cover all elements of care. For example, consider the following elements of care and the related policy analysis questions as put forth by Tronto (1998) below.

Attentiveness:

- Who is in need of care?
- What basic care is required to meet their needs?
- Are the physical, emotional, psychological, and political needs of individuals, families, and communities considered?

Responsibility:

- Who determines who is responsible for providing care to those in need?
- Is the balance of responsibility appropriately distributed across those connected to the ones in need of care?
- Are there individuals or agencies who should ethically be included in the responsibility of care but are not?

Competence:

- How competent are the informal and formal systems of care in meeting the physical, emotional, psychological, and political needs of those in need of care?
- How well do they meet the standards of care of the family, the community, the agency, and legal standards?
- Are there resources that caregivers need to more competently do their work that is currently not provided?

Responsiveness:

- How do care receivers respond to the care that they are given physically, emotionally, psychologically, and culturally?
- How well is the care process individualized to the needs of the care receiver?

Engaging in policy making and examining health policies help nurses to shape nursing practice and to assess the impact of policies on target populations. Knowledgeable action can go a long way to improve health care access and reduce health disparities in every state across the country, especially when nurses collectively act.

References

Kennedy-Stewart, S. (2016). Health care policy for today's nurse: The crucial role you play. *Med-Surg Matters*, 25(4), 11.

Tronto, J. C. (1998). An ethic of care. *Generations*, 22(3), 15–21.

Learning Activities

u04s1 - Studies

Workload Schedule

At the start of this week, read the [Workload Schedule \[DOC\]](#) for this unit and use it to plan your tasks.

Readings

In the *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care* text, read the following:

- Chapter 7, "The Policy Process," pages 61–71. This portion of the chapter discusses the strategies, concepts, and approaches in policymaking. In addition, this chapter addresses the importance of skills in issue analysis and policy development.

- Chapter 43, "An Overview of Legislation and Regulation," pages 377–388. This chapter discusses how to influence the legislative process, executive action, and the regulatory process.
- Chapter 44, "Lobbying Policymakers: Individual and Collective Strategies," pages 390–398. This chapter addresses lobbying and communicating with policymakers and staff.

Use the Capella Library and the Internet to complete the following:

- Read Mitchell, F. M. (2015). [Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in an Era of Health Care Reform](#). *Health & Social Work*, 40(3), e66-74.
- Visit American Nurses Association's 2011 Web page, [Current Legislation](#). The page helps to identify and review one bill that would impact nursing practice. Use the "details" link to go to the full text of the bill and read it. Consider its implications for nursing practice.
- Read American Nurses Association's 2013 article, ["Keeping Health Care Reform Healthy. Patients Informed."](#)
- Visit National Conference of State Legislatures's [State Legislative Websites Directory](#). From the site, visit your home state legislative Web site and search for health related bills. Select one that would have an impact on health disparities. Review and consider its impact on target populations in your state.
- Visit [United States House of Representatives](#) and the [United States Senate](#) Web sites to become familiar with the representatives from your state.
- Review the National Coalition on Health Care's 2012 document, ["Curbing Costs Improving Care: The Path to an Affordable Health Care Future."](#) You are not required to read all 56 pages of this document, but rather familiarize yourself with the seven strategies that are listed to reduce the cost of health care while simultaneously attempting to build a health system that is sustainable and affordable over the long term.

u04d1 - State-Level Policies

In this discussion, you will report on ANA's current legislation or state-level policies or bills that focus on reducing health disparities in your state.

Identify an established policy or a proposed bill being considered in legislature that would in some way impact health disparities nationally or in your state (such as the uninsured, quality of health care, health care access, or health care costs). Discuss how well your selected policy or bill aligns with the ANA's position on health system reform.

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial posts found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella Library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, elaborate on how well you think your peer's selected policy aligns with the ANA's position on health system reform. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Module](#)

u04d2 - Rising Cost of Health Care

The rising cost of health care in the United States has been a growing concern for the health care industry, government agencies, and health care consumers over the past decades.

What impact do you believe the American Health Care Act will have on one of the following populations? How will it impact standards of nursing practice, services, and patient care outcomes in your own practice?

- Children.
- Families.
- Elderly.

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial posts found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella library.

Response Guidelines

For your response post, select posts that address different populations than you did. Critique their assessment of the health care costs and financing concerns or issues in each question, and their impact on health care and nursing practice. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Module](#)

Unit 5 >> Executive and Judicial Decisions

Introduction

Changes in the health care delivery system over the past two decades have increased the responsibilities for nurses and, consequently, their liability in the delivery of nursing care. Our society has become more litigious, and more than ever, nurses are finding themselves involved in health care lawsuits, increasing their need to be aware of legal and trial processes, the roles they may play in trial proceedings, and the legal defenses applicable when named in a lawsuit.

Court decisions have also significantly contributed to redefining nursing care in the acute setting, especially with vulnerable patients. For example, in *Winger v. Franciscan Medical Center*, the court ruled that hospitals and their staff must take reasonable measures to ensure that suicidal patients are protected from self-harm (Guido, 2010). This decision has implications for the way psychiatric units are structured in terms of patient visibility, staffing ratios for psychiatric units with high-risk patients, and for the nursing assessments conducted by psychiatric nurses.

Nurses as Expert Witnesses

Nurses may be called on for their expert and specialized knowledge about nursing and health care to inform the court on facts and scientific information regarding a specific area of nursing practice. Nurses emerged as expert witnesses during the 1970s, and gained significant support during the 1980s and 1990s. Nurses in the role of expert witnesses helped to educate the courts in terms of nurses' knowledge and skill, and to elevate the role of nursing within the courts and in society. This first became evident in the 1980 ruling in *Maloney v. Wake Hospital Systems*, where the court ruled that "the role of the nurse is critical to providing a high standard of health care in modern medicine. Her expertise is different than, but no less exalted than, that of the physician" (Guido, 2010). Nurses may also serve as legal consultants to the court or attorneys and clients. While expert witness testimony is public for all parties involved in the lawsuit, legal consultations are private consultations to the hiring attorney and client, and information shared in this consultation is not available to the opposing attorney and client (Guido, 2010).

Nurses may also find themselves involved in trials on the other end of the spectrum, as a defendant in a case filed against her or him by a patient. Should nurses find themselves involved in nursing malpractice lawsuits, there are standard legal defenses that can provide protection from harm in the litigation process. For example, patient consent to care (explicit or implicit consent) can provide protection for nurses from legal harm in a court of law. Similarly, self defense is applicable when nurses take action to protect themselves from harm from a confused or belligerent patient. Arming oneself with legal defense knowledge is essential to informed nursing practice in the twenty-first century (Guido, 2010).

Reference

Guido, G. W. (2010). *Legal and ethical issues in nursing* (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Learning Activities

u05s1 - Studies

Workload Schedule

At the start of this week, read the [Workload Schedule \[DOC\]](#) for this unit and use it to plan your tasks.

Anatomy of a Lawsuit

View [Anatomy of a Lawsuit](#) in preparation for the discussion questions in this unit. Review the flowchart of the components of a lawsuit. This is a visual depiction of what you read in this week's reading assignment.

Readings

In the *Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing* text, read the following:

- Chapter 2, "Anatomy of a Lawsuit," pages 15–30. This chapter reveals the aspects of the trial process, including initiation of the complaint through the appeals process. In addition, there is a focus on the expert witness and how that role fits into the process.
- Chapter 7, "Nursing Liability: Defenses," pages 99–116. This chapter emphasizes the legal defenses to nursing liability and how to decrease the individual practitioner's potential legal liability.
- Chapter 17, "Nursing in Acute Care Settings," pages 331–362. This chapter provides an account of issues that occur within acute care settings and provides a how-to for competent, quality health care delivery.

In the *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care* text, complete the following:

- Review Chapter 43, "An Overview of Legislation and Regulation," pages 377–388.
- Chapter 53, "Nursing and the Courts," pages 447–455. This chapter provides a general understanding of the legal and judicial system and the role of the courts in shaping policy by providing examples of nursing and health policy.

u05s2 - Riverbend City: Nurse Practice Act Mission

Review the Riverbend City and the Emergency Call Center in the City County Building, the Washington Allston Elementary School, and the RCMC Medical Command Center scenario. This scenario deals primarily with the scope of practice for the advanced practice nurse.

Click the Riverbend City: Nurse Practice Act transcript link to view it.

Course Resources

Riverbend City: Nurse Practice Act Transcript

u05a1 - Policy Boundaries

Read the Health Care and Nursing Policy Critique Project Description and Scoring Guide for all details related to your final course project.

For this assignment, you will build on the Health Care and Nursing Issue assignment you submitted in Unit 2.

- Write a 3–5 page paper (excluding cover sheet and references) that clearly lays out policies that define health care and nursing practice with your selected issue or problem.
- Include in your paper:
 - Legislation.
 - Executive decisions.
 - Court decisions.
 - Regulations that have defined this area of health care delivery and nursing practice, historically and today.
- Discuss the legal and ethical considerations that have influenced policy decision making regarding this issue.
- Use scholarly sources that address the social, historical, and political context of the research, theories, and methods related to your topic.
- Cite a minimum of three sources with the majority being peer-reviewed sources. Your reference list should be appropriate to the body of literature available on this topic that has been published in the past five years.
- Use APA style and formatting throughout your paper and when citing your sources.

Read the Policy Boundaries Scoring Guide to learn the requirements for this assignment and how you will be evaluated.

Note: Your instructor may also use the Writing Feedback Tool to provide feedback on your writing. In the tool, click on the linked resources for helpful writing information.

Course Resources

[Writing Feedback Tool](#)

[APA Style Paper Tutorial \[DOCX\]](#)

[APA Style Paper Template \[DOCX\]](#)

u05d1 - Court Decisions and Nursing Actions

Changes in the health care delivery system have expanded the role of the nurse and increased accountability for safe patient care. Consequently, professional liability in the delivery of nursing care is a growing concern. Court decisions have significantly contributed to redefining nursing care in the acute setting, especially with vulnerable patients.

Discuss legal defenses to nursing liability and how a nurse may decrease potential legal liability within the workplace.

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial posts found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, critique your peer's analysis of legal defenses to nursing liability and how a nurse may decrease potential legal liability within the workplace. Point out the strengths and limitations of their analysis and provide support for your positions. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

[Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide](#)

[APA Module](#)

Unit 6 >> Federal, State, and Professional Regulations

Introduction

The rising cost of health care in the United States has been a growing concern for the health care industry, government agencies, and health care consumers over the past several decades. In an effort to contain health care costs, managed care was introduced on a large scale in the late 1980s and early 1990s as a system of care to provide access and affordability to the insured and to reduce the cost of providing care by health care providers, institutions, and insurance companies.

After three decades, managed care has become an integral part of the U.S. health care system, and has redefined health care and how it is readily accessed. The complexities of managed care insurance coverage plans are sometimes overwhelming to consumers in understanding what coverage they have and how to access care. As a result many ethical and legal issues have arisen regarding care access and care outcomes. This has prompted not only court decisions but also legislation, in an effort to bring more regulation and standards of care to the managed care industry.

The Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) sought to bring uniformity to managed care plans and a reduction in poor medical decisions and poor patient outcomes (Guido, 2010). It was intended that this legislation would also reduce legal liabilities related to care. Another major piece of legislation was the 1986 Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) that guaranteed health care as a right, because it made it illegal for care facilities to turn away patients who were unable to pay for health care (Guido, 2010). Both of these acts contributed to the standards of care of health care organizations and professions, and have implications on how nursing is practiced.

The Nurse Practice Act (NPA) is the defining legislation for delineating the scope of nursing practice, licensure requirements, and nursing education in each state. Practicing nursing in ethical and legal ways requires that nurses be well informed on:

- State statutes where they work.
- The role of the state nursing board in their state.
- Requirements for licensure.
- Disciplinary actions taken against nurses when infractions are made.

Such knowledge not only guards the nurses against legal complications in nursing practice but also helps them practice within the cultural, geographic, and ethical contexts of their individual states. Case studies in this unit bring to life real risks in nursing practice and provide the means to assess risk within the context of your own practice.

Reference

Guido, G. W. (2010). *Legal and ethical issues in nursing* (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Learning Activities

u06s1 - Studies

Workload Schedule

At the start of this week, read the [Workload Schedule \[DOC\]](#) for this unit and use it to plan your tasks.

Readings

In the *Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing* text, read the following:

- Chapter 11, "Nurse Practice Acts, Licensure, and the Scope of Practice," pages 199–222. This chapter discusses the relationship between state nurse practice acts, entry into professional practice, educational issues, and scope of practice issues.
- Chapter 18, "Nursing in Ambulatory and Managed Care Settings," pages 366–394. This chapter presents the legal aspects of nursing in a managed care organization.

In the *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care* text, read the following:

- Chapter 18, "Financing Health Care in the United States," pages 172–182. This chapter addresses the key features of the health care financing system in the United States.
- Chapter 54, "Nursing Licensure and Regulation," pages 456–464. This part of the chapter presents a case study that illustrates the controversy around professional regulation and licensure.

u06s2 - Riverbend City: Staffing Mission

Visit the Riverbend City Medical Center and observe the staffing issues being dealt with by the medical center management. You will discuss your findings in this week's discussion activity.

Click **Riverbend City: Staffing Mission** to view the presentation.

Course Resources

Riverbend City: Staffing Mission

u06d1 - Managed Care

Managed care has become an integral part of the U.S. health care system in the past several decades and has redefined health care and how it is readily accessed.

Discuss the ethical and legal issues that have arisen of managed care, especially as it relates to the Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and Standards of Care (SOC). Describe how these issues impacted your nursing practice.

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial postings found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella Library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, critique your peer's analysis of the ethical and legal issues that have arisen of managed care. Point out the strengths and limitations of their analysis and provide support for your positions. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Module](#)

u06d2 - Legal and Ethical Implications of Nursing Assignments

Throughout the emergency in Riverbend City, RCMC has been struggling with staffing issues. When you explored the various units of RCMC earlier, you had the opportunity to observe several examples of the staffing difficulties that transpired during the emergency.

Specifically, consider the events that transpired in the PICU. At the start of the shift, the PICU was already understaffed, but the unit expected to discharge two children to the nursing unit. In an effort to respond to their short-handedness, Beatriz Garcia Chaves, the CNO, pulled a nurse from the medical-surgical floor and sent her to work in the PICU. After evaluating the situation, the nurse decided she was not comfortable with the assignment and refused to stay.

What actions should a nurse take when faced with an assignment that does not match his or her skills? **What moral, ethical, and legal factors need to be considered as a basis for this action?**

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial postings found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella Library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, critique your peer's analysis of what actions a nurse should take when faced with an assignment which does not match his or her skills. Point out the strengths and limitations of their analysis and provide support for your positions.

- Offer your perspective from your experience.
- Continue the dialogue with your colleagues by asking probing and reflective questions.

The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Module](#)

Introduction

The American Nurses Association and its code of ethics require that nurses actively participate in policy making as part of their personal nursing practice (American Nurses Association, 2015). Most often, nurses meet their political commitments as members of their professional nursing organizations, which are the mouthpieces for the profession. While there are dozens of professional nursing organizations, the ANA is the umbrella organization that speaks on behalf of the nursing profession within the political arena. ANA has a major role in informing and shaping health care policy in the legislative process, the rulemaking process, and within the judiciary process when submitting Amicus Curiae (friends of the court) briefs. As members of professional nursing organizations and health care institutions, nurses have opportunities to actively involve themselves in policy making, and should prepare themselves with valuable knowledge and techniques for influencing health care policy.

At a time when the number of uninsured Americans is high and the disparities in health care are expanding within the country in comparison to other industrialized nations, political action of nurses is critical in creating a system of care that provides access and quality care not only to those who can afford to purchase it, but most importantly to the most vulnerable in society. Using an ethics of care perspective, a health care system would provide for those who are least able to care for themselves. There is a philosophical belief in the ethics of care perspective that acknowledges that when you neglect the most vulnerable in society, you neglect all. What touches one, touches all, in some form (Tronto, 1995, 1998). There are short- and long-term consequences for ignoring the health care needs of the vulnerable, for individuals and society as a whole.

Many more health care resources are used up in treating illnesses that have been long ignored because of lack of access to health care, than if the illnesses had been prevented or treated early. It ultimately costs society more monetarily when those without resources are in need of care. It also causes extensive suffering to those who are ill and those who care about them. Understanding these realities moves the profession of nursing to embrace their professional values of caring, collaboration, collectivity, and interdependence to create a system of care that is comprehensive in its care rather than fragmented. This system of care must be responsive to the needs of patients medically, psychologically, politically, and culturally, and attend foremost to the most vulnerable in society (Tronto, 1995, 1998). The nursing profession's commitment to social justice requires its participation in the political and policy making processes, and is a challenge to all nurses to lift their voices and be heard.

References

American Nurses Association. (2015). *Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements*. Silver Spring, MD: Author.

Tronto, J. C. (1995). Care as a basis for radical political judgments. *Hypatia*, 10(2), 141–149.

Tronto, J. C. (1998). An ethic of care. *Generations*, 22(3), 15–20.

Course Resources

[Code of Ethics for Nurses With Interpretive Statements](#)

Learning Activities

u07s1 - Studies

Workload Schedule

At the start of this week, read the [Workload Schedule \[DOC\]](#) for this unit and use it to plan your tasks.

Nursing Practice Timeline

View the [Nursing Practice Timeline](#) to prepare for the Unit 7 assignment and discussion questions. This timeline presents key health or nursing issues and incorporates key events that have influenced nursing policy, court decisions, and legislation.

Readings

In the *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care* text, read the following:

- Chapter 1, "Frameworks for Action in Policy and Politics," pages 1–19. This chapter discusses the role of politics in the nursing profession.
- Chapter 4, "Learning the Ropes of Policy and Politics," pages 38–47. This chapter explores how to develop political skills through mentoring, education, and direct experience.
- Chapter 9, "Political Analysis and Strategies," pages 80–90. This chapter addresses the nurse's role in politics and the need to sustain interpersonal relationships.

- Chapter 14, "Using the Power of Media to Influence Health Policy and Politics," pages 120–135. This chapter discusses the role the media plays in health policy and politics.

Use the Capella library to complete the following:

- American Nurses Association. (2015). *Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements*. Silver Spring, MD: Author. ISBN:9781558105997.
 - Review the *Code*; this will be helpful in understanding ethical mandates for policy involvement for nurses.

Use the Internet to complete the following:

- American Nurses Association. (n.d.). *Health system reform*. Retrieved from <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/health-policy/health-system-reform/>
 - Reading this article will be helpful as you complete the unit's health care reform discussion.
- Nightingales. (n.d.). *The Nightingales nurses*. Retrieved from <http://www.nightingalesnurses.org>
 - Explore the goals, plans, options, and strategies of this advocacy organization as it works to change policy and increase the tobacco industry's accountability.

u07d1 - Health Care Reform

Health care reform is at the forefront of social policy, and the role of nursing in influencing health care policy is not only needed but required by the ANA ethical mandates on policy formation.

In its health care reform position paper, the American Nurses Association (ANA) identified four key factors that need to be addressed when reforming the U.S. health care system. Select one of these key factors and discuss, within the complex adaptive systems theoretical framework, how it might be achieved:

1. Access.
2. Cost.
3. Quality.
4. Workforce.

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial postings found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, critique the learner's analysis pertaining to policy and policy change as it relates to health care reform. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Module](#)

u07d2 - Advocacy Plan of Action

The nursing profession is committed to social justice. Nurses have opportunities to actively involve themselves in policy making and should prepare themselves with valuable knowledge and techniques for influencing health care policy. Discuss the role of the nurse as a health care policy advocate and some challenge(s) that nurses may experience when lifting their voices to be heard in the political and policy-making processes.

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial posts found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, provide suggestions on how your peers might enhance their advocacy plans. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[APA Module](#)

Unit 8 >> Influencing Legal and Regulatory Processes

Introduction

The privatization of health care has brought with it ethical issues for nurses and, some contend, a crisis in the nursing profession (Mason, Gardner, Outlaw, and O'Grady, 2016). Nurses faced with mandatory overtime, unsafe staffing levels, the loss of professional autonomy within the health care industry, and exclusion from nursing practice decision making have demanded help from professional nursing organizations to take on the causes of safe health care for patients and safe nursing practices for themselves (Mason, Gardner, Outlaw, and O'Grady, 2016).

Professional nursing organizations, such as the ANA, are the collective voices of nurses and the primary advocates for the profession in the workplace and in the political arena. Nurses who join and participate in their professional nursing organizations enhance the power of the organization and the profession's ability to shape nursing practice, bargain for safe work environments, and promote safe and affordable health care delivery systems. Collective actions taken by nurses, for nurses, through professional nursing organizations elevate the status of the profession and build political capital that the profession can expend in pursuit of better health policies and better care for patients.

Often this political capital is used in the legislative process and in the rulemaking process after a bill is passed either at the federal or state level. State and federal government agencies are responsible for developing rules and regulations for implementing policy once legislation has been passed. Regulations can have a profound impact on how policy is translated into practice, and is another opportunity for nurse advocates and professional organizations to influence the policy making process. Rules give interpretation to the law, and bring the law one step closer to practice. Rules determine what can and cannot be done in the realm of health care and nursing practices. Like legislation, rulemaking has powerful influence on nursing practice, and as such, is an important point of intervention in the policy implementation process for nurses.

Professional nursing organizations may be invited to actively participate in the rulemaking process, or they can actively lobby state and federal agencies for specific outcomes in the rulemaking process that will reflect the values and best practices of the profession and minimize the risk of harm to patients and nursing staff. Individual nurses and members of the public at large can also involve themselves in the rulemaking process by attending public hearings on proposed rules at state and federal levels. More recently, nurses and the public may post personal comments and concerns regarding proposed rules to government Web sites. Individual nurses are most effective when working in concert with their professional nursing organizations, and supporting the organization's positions and political agendas.

Reference

Mason, D. J., Gardner, D. B., Outlaw, F. H., & O'Grady, E. T. (Eds.). (2016). *Policy & politics in nursing and health care* (7th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

Learning Activities

u08s1 - Studies

Workload Schedule

At the start of this week, read the [Workload Schedule \[DOC\]](#) for this unit and use it to plan your tasks.

Readings

In the *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care* text, read the following:

- Chapter 74, "Professional Nursing Associations: Operationalizing Nursing Values," pages 596–612. This chapter discusses professional associations and organizations dealing with contemporary issues in nursing.

Use the Internet to complete the following:

- Read American Nurses Association. (2017). [Strategies to Address the New Nursing Shortage](#).
- Visit [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) Web site and become familiar with the wealth of available resources that it provides in the area of public health.
- Visit two of the professional nursing organizations found at the Salisbury University Nursing [Resources Page](#). Select from the Comprehensive Associations or the Specialty Associations and scroll to Comprehensive Associations or Specialty Associations. Explore the most pressing issues on your two selected professional organizations' political agendas and how they are attempting to shape policy and influence nursing practice around these issues.
- Visit USA.gov's [State and Local Agencies and Offices by Topic](#) to locate the state agencies in your state. Explore the agencies and identify at least two that regulate policies that influence health care access and delivery. Attempt to discern how an individual health care professional or lay citizen might have a say in how rules and regulations are made.
- Visit the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs' [RegInfo.gov](#). Review the purpose and content of the site.
 - There is a link at the bottom right-hand corner of the RegInfo.gov site as well. Click on "Read Comments." Review the comments on your selected proposed rules, which you can locate by searching for the ID number you wrote down from the Federal Register. Make a comment if you choose to in the provided space and submit.
- Visit the [Federal Register](#). Explore the purpose and content of the site. Then click Today's Federal Register, and browse through sections related to health care. Locate some adopted rules or proposed rules that could have an impact on health care and nursing care, and read them. Consider the impact of the proposed rules on health care and nursing practice. Make note of the ID number in the brackets (for example, [R9-18587]).

u08a1 - Policy Analysis

Read the course project description for all details related to your final course project. To prepare for this assignment, you may wish to review your Unit 2 discussion, Ethics in the U.S. Health Care System.

Write a 3–5 page paper analyzing current policy that directs care related to your topic of interest. You should use an ethics framework that considers each of the following points:

- How attentive is the policy to the needs of health care consumers? Is health care accessible, affordable, and appropriate?
- Who is responsible for ensuring that care is delivered to those in need? In what ways do they meet this responsibility? In what ways do they fall short?
- How competent is the system of care that is responsible for the delivery of care on all levels, from individual staff to the system level?
- How responsive is the system of care to those in need of care? Is the system more responsive to some than others? Who gets left out?
- What are the consequences of this policy in terms of quality of care and access to care? Who suffers and in what ways?

This analysis paper builds on the information and knowledge you gathered in writing the nursing issues paper in Unit 2 and the policy boundaries paper in Unit 5. Remember that policy can be formed from legislation, executive orders, court decisions, and governmental or professional regulations.

- Cite a minimum of three peer-reviewed sources. Be sure to find and use policy evaluation studies in addition to other empirical research to support your analysis.
- Your reference list should be appropriate to the body of literature available on this topic that has been published in the past five years.
- Use APA style and formatting throughout your paper and when citing your sources. You may find it helpful to use section headings to organize the analysis.

Read the Policy Analysis Scoring Guide to learn the requirements for this assignment and how you will be evaluated.

Note: Your instructor may also use the Writing Feedback Tool to provide feedback on your writing. In the tool, click on the linked resources for helpful writing information.

Course Resources

[Writing Feedback Tool](#)

[APA Style Paper Template \[DOCX\]](#)

[APA Style Paper Tutorial \[DOCX\]](#)

[APA Module](#)

u08d1 - The Future of the Nursing Profession

The nursing profession faces many issues about the delivery of quality, accessible, and affordable health care services, issues such as safe staffing levels, nursing shortages and overtime, and burnout. Professional nursing organizations can play a critical role to help resolve these health care issues.

Discuss the role of professional nursing organizations in moving and shaping health care policy and nursing practice.

What ANA mandates for policy involvement have been most successful for professional nursing organizations in influencing policy decisions?

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial postings found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella Library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, respond to the learner's position on the roles of professional nursing organizations in moving and shaping health care policy and nursing practice in accordance to ANA mandates. Indicate where you agree and where you disagree, and explain why. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

APA Module

Unit 9 >> Influence in Delivery Systems and Patient Outcomes

Introduction

Nursing practice has expanded beyond acute care settings to encompass community-based nursing practice in schools, work settings, home-based care, public health, parish nursing. It also includes long-term care in nursing homes, assisted-living settings, rehabilitation centers, elder day care centers, and hospice care (Guido, 2010).

Alternative care settings open up opportunities for nurses to identify and treat conditions that might go unnoticed outside acute care settings and to recognize community trends that can inform community-based prevention programs for improved health and reduced health disparities. Community-based and long-term care nursing practices bring with them opportunities for expanded autonomy but also unique legal liabilities, such as patient abandonment as it relates to contract law, risk of caring for patients in their own homes and in nonmedical settings such as elder day care centers and schools, confidentiality, emergency response and emergency standards, malpractice and negligence, falls and the use of restraints, end-of-life care, and elder abuse, just to name a few. Nurses working in nontraditional settings need to remain current on court decisions informing care in alternative settings and on state and federal laws to minimize their liability risks (Guido, 2010).

Advances in technology, travel, and world trade have truly created a global village that brings with it not only the excitement of cultural blending and knowledge but also the risk of diseases once confined to remote areas of the world. New diseases such as SARS, Avian flu, and H1N1 flu spread quickly, challenging effective responses to massive outbreaks and raising fears among the populations. Other global issues of extreme poverty and child starvation, international emergencies such as terrorist attacks or massive natural disasters, the pandemic of HIV/AIDS, and genocide (as in Darfur) demand a global response from the nursing community.

Nursing migration around the globe has emerged out of global trends and needs in health care and represents special challenges for melding international nursing practices and creating international licensure mechanisms for regulated practice. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) represents nurses from over 130 countries and is the voice of the global nursing community. Involved in setting standards of practice and international nurse recruitment and providing health leadership and collaboration with world organizations such as agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental agencies (NGOs), the ICN works to promote global nursing policies for achieving global health (Mason, Gardner, Outlaw, & O'Grady, 2016).

References

Guido, G. W. (2010). *Legal and ethical issues in nursing* (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Mason, D. J., Gardner, D. B., Outlaw, F. H., & O'Grady, E. T. (Eds.). (2016). *Policy & politics in nursing and health care* (7th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

Learning Activities

u09s1 - Studies

Workload Schedule

At the start of this week, read the [Workload Schedule \[DOC\]](#) for this unit and use it to plan your tasks.

Readings

In the *Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing* text, read the following:

- Chapter 19, "Public and Community Health Care," pages 396–416. This chapter discusses the potential for legal liability for nurses who are working in community settings.
- Chapter 20, "Nursing in Long-Term Care Settings," pages 418–440. This chapter provides an overview of long-term care settings and the potential concerns for legal liability for nurses working in these types of settings.

In the *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care* text, read the following:

- Chapter 91, "International Health and Nursing Policy and Politics Today: A Snapshot," pages 703–711. This chapter presents the policies associated with globalization and international health and nursing issues.

Use the Internet to complete the following and prepare for this unit's discussions:

- Visit American Nurses Association's Web page, [Healthy Work Environment](#).
- Visit the National Center on Adult Abuse's [State Resources](#).
- Visit the [International Council of Nurses](#) website and read their policy position statements related to poverty, HIV/AIDS, infectious and communicable diseases, and war and conflict.
- Visit the Qualis Health's [Patient-Centered Medical Home Transformation](#).
- Visit the AHRQ's [Patient Centered Medical Home Resource Center](#).
- Visit the Improving Chronic Illness Care's [The Chronic Care Model](#).

u09d1 - Community Nursing

The elderly population is quickly growing in the United States. This group is faced with a variety of losses such as declining health, finances, and declining support systems. As a result, the elderly are more vulnerable and susceptible to abuse. Health care professionals are legally, ethically, and morally accountable to protect this vulnerable population. If you suspect elder abuse, what resources are available to assist the elderly in your workplace and state?

Visit the link for the National Center on Adult Abuse's State Resources in your state or territory to respond to this question.

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial posts found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, critique your peer's response to the discussion question. Discuss any differences noted between your state's resources and those of your peer. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

[State Resources](#)

u09d2 - Patient-Centered Medical Home

As health care reform evolves, creative models for delivering quality and equitable care are emerging. The patient-centered medical home model is grounded in established change concepts and provides an evidence-based framework for quality improvement.

Review the Patient-Centered Medical Home Transformation website. Discuss the nurse's role in the patient-centered medical home. Discuss how you could redesign your practice based on the features of the medical home (Patient-centered, Comprehensive, Coordinated, Accessible, & Committed to quality and safety).

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial posts found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, critique the learner's response on how they could redesign your practice based on the features of the medical home and offering additional suggestions. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

[Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide](#)

[Patient-Centered Medical Home Transformation](#)

[APA Module](#)

Unit 10 >> Scope of Discipline for Future Consideration

Introduction

Fulfilling the nursing profession's commitment to social justice, access to basic health care, and the creation of health communities requires the involvement and action of all nurses individually and collectively through professional nursing organizations. The current health problems of uninsured citizens, poor quality of care, escalating rates of poverty, homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse, will require that nurses be in the health care movement for the long haul in order to gain ground on these difficult issues.

Nursing leadership and collaboration with other dedicated professions working in community for change can create pathways to health equity and healthy communities. Your knowledge about how to take local action and effective strategies for change—and your courage to help lead the way—can make a difference in your corner of the world.

Learning Activities

u10s1 - Studies

Workload Schedule

At the start of this week, read the [Workload Schedule \[DOC\]](#) for this unit and use it to plan your tasks.

Readings

In the *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care* text, read the following:

- Chapter 81, "Where Policy Hits the Pavement: Contemporary Issues in Communities," pages 642–649. This chapter discusses contemporary issues in communities, the nature of community, and health-related conditions.
- Chapter 82, "An Introduction to Community Activism," pages 651–658. This chapter addresses strategies for working with the community in the nursing profession.

u10a1 - Health Care and Nursing Policy Critique

Read the course project description for all details related to your final course project

The course assignments leading up to this unit have 1) explored an issue with both long- and short-term health effects on vulnerable populations, 2) analyzed the policy boundaries related to this issue, and 3) analyzed the ethics of existing policy. For this assignment you will build upon previous work, leveraging your knowledge and the evidence, to critique the current policy and state of affairs regarding the issue.

A critique is a type of academic writing where you evaluate what you have learned both positively and negatively. It is not only a criticism. Critiquing means that you are able to see the big picture. This is an important perspective when considering policy issues.

Develop a 5–7 page paper that critiques the extent to which the policies, legislation, and regulatory environment effectively address the health care or nursing problem that has been your focus during this course. The paper will:

- Identify and summarize the health care and nursing problem that has been the focus of analysis for this course project. Identify why this issue was important to you.
- Summarize the policies, legislative, and legal considerations related to the focus topic
- Distinguish the social, historical, and/or political context for the focus topic
- Critique the policies that define and direct care related to the focus topic
 - To what extent does the policy support the provision of comprehensive care? To what extent does it fragment care?
 - What are the power relations between those in need of care and those providing care (both the institutions and their individual members)? How empowering is the policy for patients, for nursing care providers, and for institutions in the health care system?
 - What challenges to care or gaps in care does this policy present?
 - How well does the policy reflect the ANA Code of Ethics?
 - What ethical issues does this policy raise in the delivery of care, and in the maintenance or creation of health disparities?
- Draw some conclusions about the current state of affairs regarding the policy and health care issue based upon your policy analysis and evaluation and reference materials.
- Make recommendations for policy changes that would ameliorate the gaps in health care and nursing policy, from an ethics of care perspective, based on your conclusions. Provide rationale and empirical and theoretical supports for your recommendations.
- Suggest some methods for creating change within the legislative, judicial, or regulatory processes.

The assignment will:

- Cite a minimum of 7 creditable references published within the last five years.
- Use APA style and formatting for your paper and citing your references. You may want to consider using section headings to organize the paper.

Note: Your instructor may also use the Writing Feedback Tool to provide feedback on your writing. In the tool, click on the linked resources for helpful writing information.

Portfolio Prompt: You are required to save this learning activity to your ePortfolio.

Course Resources

[Using the Library](#)

[Capella University Library: Search Tips and Tricks](#)

[How Do I Find Peer-Reviewed Articles?](#)

[ePortfolio](#)

[Capella Writing Center](#)

[Abstracts](#)

[Writing Feedback Tool](#)

[APA Style Paper Tutorial \[DOCX\]](#)

[APA Style Paper Template \[DOCX\]](#)

[APA Module](#)

u10d1 - Health Care and Nursing Policy

Discuss how this course has made an impact on your commitment to social justice for health equity and access to basic health care.

Your initial post should follow the requirements for initial posts found in the Faculty Expectations Message (FEM) and reference at least one current APA-formatted reference. The reference can be a text, an assigned reading, or a reference you find on your own through the Capella Library.

Response Guidelines

In your response post, provide supportive feedback and suggestions for continued commitment to social justice. The response post is not required to be APA referenced, but may be. Be sure to follow the requirements for response posts found in the FEM.

Course Resources

[Undergraduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide](#)

[APA Module](#)