

NURS 4220, 10710, Professional Topics in Nursing Spring 2021

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

This is a 100% online course and uses the [A&M Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System](#)(opens in a new page)

<https://tamuct.instructure.com>

Course dates: January 19, 2021-May 14, 2021

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Amy Mersiovsky, DNP, RN, PED-BC

Office: Heritage Hall, Room 302A

Phone: 254-519-5487

Email: Canvas inbox is the preferred method for communication for course-related communications. Secondary email: a.mersiovsky@tamuct.edu

Office Hours:

Please contact the professor for a virtual or phone appointment at least 24 hours in advance. After business hour appointments may be arranged due to student need.

Student-instructor interaction

Messages within Canvas are checked daily. Emails to secondary email are checked Monday through Friday during business hours. Students may expect a response within 24 to 48 hours. It is expected that all Canvas message communication from faculty receive a response within 48 hours.

The Canvas announcements page is used to send information that pertains to all students. It is strongly suggested that you adjust your Canvas settings to receive announcements in your email account or check announcements frequently.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](#)

[<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.
- Face Coverings— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
 - o If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students.

- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and description

NURS 4220. Professional Topics in Nursing. 2 Credit Hours.

This course is designed to promote nationally recognized nursing specialty certification exam. After developing a plan of study approved by the nursing program director, the student will conduct an independent study in the field of nursing specialty certification under the direction of a faculty member. Evidence of exam completion will be required for credit to be awarded. Specialty certification must be in an area recognized by a national certifying body such as the National Commission for Certifying Agencies and the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification.

Course Objective or Goal

By the end of this course, the student will have developed and completed a plan of study leading to Specialty Nursing area Board Certification.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Integrate evidence-based findings into specialty practice in nursing.
2. Promote the image of nursing by modeling values of advanced specialty certification in an area of practice.
3. Articulate the value of pursuing practice excellent and professional engagement to foster professional growth and development.
4. Implement aspects of specialty certification into health care delivery system to improve quality

Competency Goals Statements (certification or standards)

This course aligns with the following competencies of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing **Competency Goals Statements from The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice** (2008):

Essential VII: Professionalism and Professional Values

Differentiated Essential Competency Statements from The Texas Board of Nursing

- I. Member of the profession
 - a. Demonstrate responsibility for continued competence in nursing practice, and develop insight through reflection, self-analysis, self-care, and lifelong learning.

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Study guide recommended by credentialing body – will vary by specialty area.

Reading materials posted to Canvas course site

In addition to APA Manual:

[Purdue Owl APA website](#)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements: (include point values for each- not just a percentage)

See the course schedule for due dates on all assignments

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements: (include point values for each- not just a percentage)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Eligibility criteria cross walk | 10 |
| 2. Learning Plan | 40 |
| 3. Checkpoints (2 at 20 points each) | 40 |
| 4. Evaluation of Learning Plan | 10 |

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Eligibility criteria cross walk (10 points)

The student will examine the eligibility criteria required for the specialty certification and provide a written demonstration of how each criteria are met. This may include work history, years of service in a specialty or other specific requirements.

Outcome met: Articulate the value of pursuing practice excellent and professional engagement to foster professional growth and development.

Learning Plan (40 points)

With direction and supervision of faculty, the student will develop a 12-14 week plan of study to achieve readiness for certification exam. The plan will include objectives, timeline and appraisal of needs such as practice tests. The plan will demonstrate how individual learner needs are met.

Outcome(s) met: Integrate evidence-based findings into specialty practice in nursing. Promote the image of nursing by modeling values of advanced specialty certification in an area of practice. Implement aspects of specialty certification into health care delivery system to improve quality.

Checkpoints (4 at 10 points each)

The student will meet with faculty at 3 week intervals (sooner as needed) to provide updates on learning plan progress either in person or via virtual conference (WebEx or GoTo Meeting). Faculty will act as content advisors and determine successful progression or modification of learning plan.

Outcome met: Articulate the value of pursuing practice excellent and professional engagement to foster professional growth and development.

Evaluation of Learning Plan (10 points)

Students will complete an evaluation of the learning plan indicating readiness to sit for certification. This can include a practice exam, verification of study hour log,

Outcome met: Promote the image of nursing by modeling values of advanced specialty certification in an area of practice.

A	90-100 points
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	Below 70

Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted to the Canvas Gradebook within one week of submission.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=59 or below

*Note, grade of 70 or higher required to pass all nursing courses

Posting of Grades

All student grades will be posted on the Canvas Grade book. Students should monitor their grading status often and report to the instructor any discrepancies. Quiz and exam grades taken through Canvas are posted upon successful submission. Faculty graded assignments and discussion posts will usually be posted within 7 days after the due date and time.

Grading Policies

The Operation of the Online Course and Being an Online Student
Online learning requires students to be very self-disciplined. For this course, Monday will be considered the first class day. All assignments such as quizzes and written work will be due by midnight (2355) on Sunday of that module week. Ten points will be taken off for each day for late submissions and will not be accepted after three days.

Statement on Late Assignments

Assignments are due on the date and time outlined in the course schedule and syllabus. A 10% deduction will be taken for each day an assignment is past the due date. After three days (72 hours), a grade of 0 will be entered into the gradebook for that assignment. This includes all quizzes, discussion

boards, and any other written work in the course. Exceptions will be granted at faculty discretion and only if arrangements were made prior to the due date.

Since this is a two semester credit hour course, expect to spend at least two hours a week on your computer and reading. Study time and time for assignment completion will be in addition to that time. The course should be accessed on Canvas at least 3-4 times a week.

Quizzes for this course are used as “learnings” more than testing knowledge. You will have an unlimited amount of time to complete, but only one attempt. So, plan ahead, complete the readings first, and set aside time to complete the quiz.

Be sure to submit assignments, discussions, or any other types of assignments in the correct place as directed.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar

Week	Assignment
1 Jan 19	Eligibility Cross Walk
2 Jan 25	Learning Plan (conference with faculty)
5 Feb 15	Checkpoint #1 (conference with faculty)
8 March 8	Checkpoint #2 (conference with faculty)
March 15-19	Spring Break
11 April 5	Checkpoint #3 (conference with faculty)
14 April 26	Checkpoint #4 (conference with faculty)
15 May 3	Verification of Registration

Important University Dates

This course will observe the University's Academic Calendar. These dates are reflected in the course calendar. The full university calendar may be accessed at:

[University Calendar \(opens in a new page\)](#)

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/202010-academic-calendars-and-final-exam-schedule.pdf>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to [A&M-Central Texas Canvas \(opens in a new window\)](#)

<https://tamuct.instructure.com>

or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link:

[myCT \(opens in a new window\)](#)

<https://tamuct.onecampus.com>

You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource

materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),
[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized

reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Spring 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced

writing tutor by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

For Spring 2021, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to

inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

OTHER POLICIES

Copyright Notice

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Copyright. (2020) by (Amy Mersiovsky) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, (College of Arts& Sciences, Department of Nursing); 1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549; 254-(519-5487); (a.mersiovsky@tamuct.edu)