**CLINICAL DESCRIPTION FOR DISTANCE NURSING PROGRAMS**

**ISU Nursing Uniforms**
LPN-BS and RN-BS students are required to wear white or royal blue uniforms and/or adhere to the policies of the clinical agency in which they are practicing. [http://www.indstate.edu/health/nursing-uniform-policy](http://www.indstate.edu/health/nursing-uniform-policy)

**ISU Name Badge**
Contact The Trophy Shop at [https://www.thetrophyshopterrehaute.com/isu-nursing-program-pins](https://www.thetrophyshopterrehaute.com/isu-nursing-program-pins) or 812-299-5582. Cost is $9.92 (includes shipping & handling). The pin should consist of three lines. Top line should contain the student’s first and last name. Second line should state **BSN Student Nurse**. Third line should state **Indiana State University**. To be worn at all times during clinical. Order Form: [https://cdn.websites.hibu.com/2d0b684c48a1407dbf016f8cfa70e0fb/files/uploaded/ISU%20Nursing%20Program-rev20171121.pdf](https://cdn.websites.hibu.com/2d0b684c48a1407dbf016f8cfa70e0fb/files/uploaded/ISU%20Nursing%20Program-rev20171121.pdf).

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**NURS 304 – Comprehensive Health Assessment for Nursing Practice**

**Descriptor:** Health Assessment – Pre or co-requisites: N208  
**Description:** This 45 hour clinical involves the health assessment, including health history and physical examination, of clients throughout the lifespan, requiring application of cognitive and psychomotor skills. Students will complete several separate assessments of specific systems in preparation for two comprehensive health history and physical assessments (head-to-toe assessment of the child and adult). Students will sharpen interviewing skills, observational techniques, data collection, and evaluation skills. New skills in inspection, palpation, auscultation, and percussion will be developed, as well as utilizing the equipment for a comprehensive assessment.  
**Clinical Site:** This clinical is completed in a non-traditional clinical setting, meaning that the clinical does not have to be completed in a clinical agency. Students are not required to complete the clinical assignments on patients, but rather on stable, reasonably health, and willing individuals such as friends or family members. Students can complete clinical time anywhere the student and preceptor/mentor can meet and have equipment available. A clinical agency agreement is not required for this course.  
**Preceptor:** Students will need a BSN-prepared (preferred) registered nurse with three (3) years of experience to serve as a preceptor. He or she will oversee the clinical and evaluate the student’s performance.

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**NURS 338- Mental Health Nursing**

**Descriptor:** Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing – Prerequisites: N106, N208  
**Description:** This 45 hour clinical involves clinical education in the psychiatric care of clients with common acute and chronic mental health disorders. The importance of culturally sensitive nursing care and the nurse's role as a member of the interdisciplinary healthcare team are emphasized.  
**Clinical Site:** This clinical experience is primarily accomplished through simulation and guided experiences thorough guided experiences or community interactions. Experiences include simulation software, video assessment, comprehensive medication mastery, community support group meetings, 12 step meetings, community resource identification, and alcohol use management activities. Computer simulation assignments are structured around specific acute or chronic illnesses whereas community assignments allow the student to participate locally in their own community to help identify resources and meet clinical objectives for the course. Although not all experiences are simulated, clinical activities do not require the use of a clinical preceptor nor a specific clinical agency.
**NURS 324-Nursing Care of the Adult II**

**Descriptor:** Medical/Surgical Nursing – Prerequisites: N224, N228, Pathophysiology (BIO 412).

**Description:** The 90 hour clinical involves clinical education in the medical-surgical care of adult and older adult clients experiencing or recovering from acute and complex illnesses. The roles of the nurse within the health care delivery system are further expanded allowing students to function in the nursing role of provider of care, novice manager of care, and health promotion advocate. Emphasis is on developing skilled nursing care, critical thinking, and clinical judgment to promote optimal health among adults experiencing or recovering from illness in the acute care setting.

**Clinical Sites:** Clinical sites may include medical-surgical units or related areas (oncology units, orthopedics) in an acute care facility. Acceptable clinical sites are hospitals, including critical access hospitals and long-term acute care hospitals. Emergency rooms, surgical centers, and nursing homes would not be acceptable. A limited period of time (4 hours) may be scheduled in other areas where experiences are available to help the student meet the course objectives, such as cardiac catheter labs, outpatient surgery, endoscopy labs, etc. One clinical day (8 hours) should incorporate a management experience in which the student is required to make clinical assignments and delegate nursing duties to another health care provider.

**Preceptor:** A BSN-prepared (preferred) registered nurse with 3 years of experience in the clinical setting is required to oversee the clinical experience and evaluate the student's performance.

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**NURS 424- Nursing Care of the Adult III**

**Descriptor:** In-patient High-Acuity Care – Prerequisites: N322, N324, Pathophysiology (BIO 412)

**Description:** The 90 hour clinical component involves high-acuity clinical education in the care of clients who are experiencing or recovering from complex multisystem dysfunction and/or high intensity illnesses. The interpretation, analysis, and synthesis of physical assessment parameters and laboratory findings of the individual's pathophysiological status are stressed. The roles of the nurse within the health care delivery system are studied with significance placed on provider of care and manager of care. Emphasis is also placed on critical thinking, communicating, professional development, and economic impact of health care.

**Clinical Sites:** Clinical facilities may include general critical care units or specialized units such as coronary care units, medical intensive care units, neurosurgical units, and cardiac surgery units. General emergency departments, cardiac catheterization labs, and step-down cardiac units may also be used. **CLINICAL SITES MUST BE APPROVED BY FACULTY INSTRUCTOR, KATHLEEN HUUN, PRIOR TO COMPLETING THE PRECEPTOR AGREEMENT.**

**Preceptor:** A BSN-prepared (preferred) registered nurse with 3 years of experience in the clinical setting is required to oversee a student's clinical experience and evaluate their performance.

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**NURS 444- Population-Focused Community Health Nursing**

**Descriptor:** Community Health Nursing – Prerequisites: N318, N322, N324, N328, N330

**Description:** The forty-five (45) hour clinical assignment involves clinical education in the professional nurse's role in working with aggregates in the community. Students will explore the role of the community health nurse working collaboratively with the community through experiences that encourage an interdisciplinary approach with the nursing process serving as the primary problem-resolution model. The student uses skills in community-based assessment, program planning and practice interventions in helping populations promote, restore and preserve health. Clinical agencies are utilized to assess a population and implement an actual or theoretical health policy project based on the assessment. Students are responsible for selecting the agency and the PAR (population at risk). Students will utilize critical thinking and clinical judgment in determining the immediate and potential needs of a community.

**Clinical Sites:** Any NON-HOSPITAL setting where your preceptor works to improve the lives of those at risk or those with an actual problem. The agency must have a documented PAR that is served by the agency. The
agency must actively engage the PAR using primary, secondary or tertiary community-based nursing interventions.

**Preceptor:** A registered nurse with three years of experience, associated with the agency. A BSN is preferred.

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**NURS-484 Reflective Nursing Practice**

**Descriptor:** Nursing Synthesis – Prerequisites: N424  
**Description:** This 135 hour clinical concentration course provides an opportunity for synthesis and evaluation of professional nursing role behaviors essential to the care of clients experiencing or recovering from acute and complex health care needs across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on refinement of critical thinking and communication skills, refinement of appropriate and effective leadership/managerial skills, and the integration of a range of therapeutic interventions into nursing practice, including those appropriate to individual clients, their families/significant others, and relevant population-based groups.  
**Clinical Site:** Most of the clinical time (a minimum of 110 hours) will be spent on a medical-surgical unit in acute care facilities, oncology, orthopedics and/or post-op. If the student had a successful NURS 424 experience in critical care or emergency care, they may request to continue in this clinical arena. Students should be given the opportunity to incorporate a management experience in which the student is required to make clinical assignments and delegate nursing duties to another health care provider. RN to BSN students are expected to select a clinical environment that differs significantly from their current work environment. A limited period of time (25 hours) may be completed in “non-clinical” activities such as continuing education, ACLS or other credentialing (besides CPR). Note: Alabama residents must complete 45 hours in med-surg, 45 hours in obstetrics and 45 hours in pediatric nursing in order to meet the requirement of the Alabama Board of Nursing for RN licensure.  
**Preceptor:** A BSN-prepared (preferred) registered nurse with 3 years of experience in the clinical setting is required to oversee the clinical and evaluate the student’s performance.