

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
College of Health, Education and Human Sciences
Allied Health
5210 Grand Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649

General Syllabus

ALHE 10003 Basic Health Assessment

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 2 Laboratory or other types of Hours: 2

Prerequisite(s): Admission to WATC

Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): None

Corequisite(s): None

Effective Catalog: Fall 2024

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Designed to enhance the health/physical assessment skills of healthcare workers who function in hospitals, long-term care facilities, schools, community health, and industrial settings. An organized and systematic approach to health assessment will enable participants to utilize interviewing techniques to obtain and record a comprehensive health history and apply clinical skills. Participants will develop competencies in identifying, describing, and recording normal findings.

B. Additional Information

This course is face to face and will utilize multiple teaching/learning strategies including, but not limited to lecture, discussions, small group work, simulated activities and multimedia that will enhance instructional strategies to meet the individual learning needs of the student.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Demonstrate competency in physical assessment techniques to obtain objective data from various body systems.
2. Differentiate between normal and abnormal health findings based on evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning.
3. Apply communication and interpersonal skills to establish rapport with patients and other health care professionals.
4. Document and report assessment findings using appropriate terminology and formats.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate in written and oral form using appropriate therapeutic communication skills with patients and colleagues. Additionally, students will develop skills in documentation, reporting, writing, and oral presentation, enhancing their capacity to communicate findings, assessments, and recommendations in a clear, concise, and professional manner within various healthcare contexts.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will analyze ethical issues commonly encountered in health assessment practices, demonstrate an understanding of ethical principles and frameworks relevant to decision making in healthcare settings and apply ethical reasoning skills to resolve ethical dilemmas in health assessment scenarios.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Introduction to Health Assessment
- B. Health history taking
- C. Physical Examination
- D. Vital Signs Assessment
- E. General Survey Assessment
- F. Cultural and Psychosocial Considerations
- G. Documentation and Reporting