

January, 2012

Dear Nursing Students,

Welcome. I've prepared some information to assist you in preparing for your first days of nursing school.

My website is at <http://www.broward.edu/~gbrickma> . You'll find our calendars, the reading list, and the book list under the calendar tab. On the book list, please note there are course numbers next to several of the books. This tells you when you'll need to purchase them. The book marked TBA need not be purchased at this time.

At the bookstore:

1. You'll have the option of purchasing an Elsevier bundle which has all the books from that publisher for the entire program or purchasing the books individually as you need them. (http://evolve.elsevier.com/staticPages/s_evolve_select.html) If you purchase the bundle, you'll also get an electronic copy of the books that you can load on your computer. Purchase the remainder of the books as noted on the book list. Those marked NUR1210 can be deferred until later, as can the books for subsequent course work.
2. You'll need to purchase uniforms (make sure they are for the Nursing program) and a stethoscope (the dual-head variety from the bookstore is good and inexpensive). Obtain the following anywhere that is convenient for you: a penlight, bandage scissors (the all chrome variety is best), plenty of black pens, a black Sharpie, **all white**-leather athletic shoes or duty shoes, and white socks or hose. You'll need your student ID. We will furnish the plastic sleeve and clip holder.
3. You will not need to purchase modules. The objectives are available on-line in our Blackboard section. The document will not be available until the system opens on the first day of the term. You can, however, use the PowerPoint slides, which are available on my website at the bottom of the calendars page.
4. You **will not need** to purchase packets for Nursing Process 1, NUR1020 (theory) or Nursing Process 1 Lab (clinical) NUR1020L. For NUR1020L, which is Nursing Process 1 Lab, the required materials are available for download and printing from my web site at <http://www.broward.edu/~gbrickma> under the Clinical Documents tab. All of the information for NUR1020 is on Blackboard. The Blackboard system will open for registered students on the first day of class.
5. Those of you with financial aid will need to purchase the supply bag immediately. Please tape the receipt to the bag and place the unopened bag in a safe place. If it is unopened, the book store may accept a return, need be. This applies to the financial aid students only. Other students purchase the box at the end of NUR1020L.

Our first day for NUR1020 is Friday, January 6. Class begins at 9:00 a.m. (0900) and lasts until 1200. We'll meet in building 41, room 224, which is on the second floor. We'll begin with orientation. I'll provide the required materials, but you will need pen and paper. A uniform is not required.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays are long days. The first two clinical days start at 7:30 a.m. and last until 3:00 p.m. Be prepared with snacks and comfortable clothing (including a sweater if you tend to be cold.) We'll

cover a lot of information including the departmental policies. You'll meet the faculty and the Associate Dean, Ms Kathleen Brown. Don't worry about wearing a uniform until January 17, at which time it is required.

Please download our calendar. Note that the times are variable. Plan accordingly.

Most students are taking Pharmacology and Math Topics for Health Related Professions. Keep in mind that these classes have their own calendars and the schedules are not included in this discussion. (Many students have MTB 1370 beginning on Thursday, January 5th.)

For your information, all medication math computations must be done without a calculator. Therefore, MTB 1370 is a Calculator-Free-Zone. Many students benefit from practicing long division, multiplication, addition, and subtraction in advance—all with decimals. Some problems are solved more easily using fractions. Practicing multiplication and division of fractions is also useful.

Once you have access to Blackboard, you'll be able to download the lecture slides. I've also posted the slides for the first couple of lecture days to my website. Please read the Vital Signs chapter in the Perry and Potter, Fundamentals of Nursing text in preparation for the first lecture, which is scheduled for January 9th.

The learner objectives are in the module for NUR1020. I lecture and test to the objectives. Read the chapters before the lecture, take lecture notes, and then integrate the two sources (along with any notes from the films) into one document that "answers" the objectives.

I hope I've answered your most pressing questions. I look forward to meeting you soon. Feel free to contact me by email at gbrickma@broward.edu if you have questions.

Best Regards,
Gregg Brickman, RN, MSN
Professor of Nursing, BC-North