

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

In this course students will have opportunities to:

- Develop an awareness and sensitivity to ethical issues and potential ethical concerns in their psychiatric nursing practice.
- Examine various ethical theories, concepts, principles and decision-making models.
- Develop strategies for ethical and moral decision-making.
- Apply ethical and moral reasoning and decision-making to ethical problems in psychiatric nursing.

N: Course Content

The focus of this course is applied ethics as it relates to psychiatric nursing practice. Theoretical perspectives which empower individuals and families; adhere to fundamental human rights principles; respect autonomy; attend to diversity issues; attend to family and team inputs; and, attend to and apply professional codes, competencies and standards of practice, will be integrated into content areas. Following is a brief synopsis of broad content areas. Other content may be included, depending on experiences, interests and choices of course participants:

- Ethical perspective such as: utilitarianism, Kantian deontology, care ethics, moral relativism
- Concepts such as advocacy, autonomy, paternalism, informed consent
- Principles such as: beneficence/non-maleficence, justice, fidelity
- Moral reasoning skills
- Ethical problems in psychiatric nursing practice (research findings, praxis examples): moral distress in psychiatric nursing, inequities in resource allocation, informed consent, prolongation of life, team conflict and communication