

4-14-1986

## Create One Hour Medication Course- Nursing Department

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Resolution #20

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering

FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on April 14, 1986  
(Date)

RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: Change in the Nursing Program by the creation of a one hour course in Medication.



*[Handwritten signature]*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Sent: 4/15/86  
(For the Senate)

TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: President John E. Van de Wetering

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution

a. Accepted. Effective Date Sept 86

b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on \_\_\_\_\_

c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II., III. a. Received and acknowledged

b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTION: Vice Presidents: use cover sheet - see list attached

Others:

Distribution Date: 5/15/86

Signed: *[Signature]*  
(President of the College)

Date Received by the Senate: \_\_\_\_\_



## INTRODUCTION.

Developing a successful medications course for student nurses require maintenance of high standards consistent with promoting implementation of therapeutic regimens, and adaptation and safety for clients in a variety of settings. Administration of medications must be carried out with a high degree of proficiency and skill. Students nurses and later new graduates are expected to accurately compute dosages under very stressful and often times emergency situations, making this a very critical area.

Three years ago the Department of Nursing raised the standard for successfully passing the medications component of NUR. 334, Stress and Adaptation I, from 85% to 90% passing on the Medication Calculations component and 80% passing on the Medications Theory component. Students have since failed this module at a rate of two to four per year.

The Department of Nursing at the State University of New York College at Brockport is very much concerned with providing students an opportunity to achieve at this higher degree of competency in administering medications to clients of all ages while being as fair to the student as possible. It is the feeling of the nursing faculty that we can further improve the medications module by removing it from the NUR. 334 course and instead, offering it as a separate one credit course in which a student must achieve a minimum grade of 90% in order to pass.

## CURRENT STRUCTURE:

Currently, the Medications Module is one of three modules contained in the course NUR. 334, Stress and Adaptation I. This Module is an independent module which constitutes twenty percent (20%) of the four (4) credit NUR. 334 grade. The module is structured as follows:

### Part I. Basic Math Review

Provides a specific focus on multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals, ratios/proportions, metric system conversions, temperature conversions, prepara-



tion of packs and solutions with sample problems and practice exercises included with correct answers.

Many students need only briefly review this section before proceeding to Part II.

#### Part II. Medication Calculations

Prepares the student to accurately compute dosages ordered by a physician. It includes administering medications to infants, children and adults and requires computing pills, tablets, liquid (injection) dosages and regulating intravenous infusion drips. Practice exercises with sample problems are included.

#### Part III. Medication Theory

Includes general principles related to administration of medications safely to infants, children, adults and older adults. Particular emphasis is placed on the actual technics and procedure used in preparing and administering oral, intramuscular, subcutaneous and Z-track medications. Practice exercises with answers are included.

In addition, there is a supervised laboratory practice that must be completed prior to the student taking the Medication Theory post-test in which the student must score 80% or higher in order to pass. The actual laboratory practice is a non-graded enrichment experience affording the student an opportunity to apply what has been learned before final testing Spring semester supervised clinical.

The remaining two modules contained in the course NUR. 334 are Maternal/Neonatal and Intermediate Communications. Each of these two modules make up forty percent (40%) of the NUR. 334 grade. Passing for both is 70%.

Since raising the standard for the Medication Calculations post-test to 90%, students and faculty alike have been unhappy with the affect this has had on the G.P.A. of students who do not successfully achieve at the 90% level of expectation. These students are assigned an "E" grade for the entire NUR. 334 course. Departmental policy prevents averaging this failing grade in with those earned on the other two course components, if this grade is less than 90%.

This policy is strictly enforced since, it is such a critical performance area. Consequently, a student could earn "A" grades on the other two module post-tests and still be assigned a course grade of "E". Furthermore, since this module must be successfully completed by the end of the Fall semester, Junior year in preparation for the supervised clinical experience in medications on client care units early Spring semester, students who fail to achieve at the 90% level of expectation by their third attempt at the post-test, are dropped from nursing. However, since their G.P.A. also drops considerably, many are prevented from transferring to other departments at Brockport.

Unlike the Medications Calculations course component, Medication Theory has never presented a problem, students generally perform very well on this post-test.

#### RATIONALE FOR CHANGE IN COURSE STRUCTURE

If a student does fail the Medications Calculations component of the Medications module: 1) he/she would fail a one credit course versus a four credit course resulting in a lesser affect on the students overall G.P.A.; 2) both student and faculty morale would be improved and, 3) pre-nursing students could take the course Spring semester, Sophmore year with permission granted by the professor teaching it, thereby enabling the course to be repeated, if necessary, Fall semester Junior year (where it is currently offered) without jeopardizing a student's academic standing in nursing and subsequently improving attrition.

If necessary, pre-nursing students could receive delayed assignment of this one credit until they have been granted admission into the nursing department.

#### PROPOSAL

The curriculum Committee of the Department of Nursing wishes to propose that:

- 1) beginning Fall, 1986 offer the Medication Module as a one credit course with a successful passing expectation of 90%.
- 2) pre-nursing students are permitted to register and complete this course with professor permission.
- 3) ~~the NUR 334 course be left~~ as a four (4) credit course since, the Medication module was previously offered as independent study and was awarded no formal classes except a supervised laboratory experience.
- 4) beginning Spring, 1987 offer a supervised laboratory practice for medications each Spring semester identical to the one in place each Fall semester.

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Faint circular stamp]*

Approved by the Faculty Senate

President \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by the Department

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved by the Senate \_\_\_\_\_