





Nursing (NURS) 326

Health Assessment (Revision 9)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online  . Delivered via Brightspace.

Credits:

3

Area of study:

Applied Study

Prerequisites:

Available only to Bachelor of Nursing students with professor approval.

Post-RN BN: ENGL junior/senior (**ENGL 255** recommended)

Pre/Co-requisites:

Post LPN BN: NURS 250

Precluded:

None

Challenge:

NURS 326 is not available for challenge.

Faculty:

Faculty of Health Disciplines 

Notes:

Follow directions on the [[Undergraduate Course Registration](#)] form to register in the course. Online course materials cannot be accessed prior to your course contract start date.

Overview

NURS 326: Health Assessment is designed to assist nursing students in the development of interviewing and history taking skills as well as skills in physical examination and psychosocial assessment. The collection of data through these skills is the first step in the nursing process. The data are then used as the basis for the formulation of nursing diagnoses and nursing interventions to promote health, prevent illness, or manage illness.

Outline

NURS 326: Health Assessment includes 14 units:

- Unit 1: Health Assessment: Learning About Your Client
- Unit 2: Health History: Your Client's Story and Approach to the Clinical Setting
- Unit 3: Assessment of Skin, Hair, and Nails
- Unit 4: Assessment of Head, Face, Neck, including Regional Lymphatic System, and Eyes
- Unit 5: Assessment of Nose, Mouth, Throat, and Ears
- Unit 6: Assessment of Thorax and Lungs
- Unit 7: Assessment of Cardiovascular System
- Unit 8: Assessment of Peripheral Vascular and Lymphatic Systems
- Unit 9: Assessment of Abdomen



- Unit 10: Assessment of Musculoskeletal System and Nutritional Assessment
- Unit 11: Assessment of Neurological System
- Unit 12: Assessment of Breasts and Regional Lymphatics
- Unit 13: Assessment of Male and Female Genitourinary Systems, Anus, Rectum, and Prostate
- Unit 14: Putting it All Together: Knowing Your Client

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of NURS 326, the student will be able to

- Identify the components of the complete and focused health assessments;
- Identify developmental and cultural considerations in the performance of complete and focused health assessments;
- Describe and document a complete and focused health history;
- Explain the components of a physical examination for each body system; and
- Identify client teaching and health promotion activities.


Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for NURS 326, students must complete all of the required assignments, achieve a minimum pass grade of 64% on the final exam and an overall composite grade of a **C (64 percent)** . All papers submitted must follow the guidelines of the current APA Publication Manual.

The assignments and weighting of the composite grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Scholarly Paper	30%
Assignment 2: Health Assessment Mastery Quiz (unlimited attempts) (Minimum Pass: 100%)	0%

Activity	Weight
Cumulative Unit Assessment (Units 1-8; Invigilated)	30%
Final Examination	40%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#)  section of the Calendar.

Materials

Digital course materials

Links to the following course materials will be made available in the course:

Jarvis, C. (2024). *Physical examination & health assessment* (4th Canadian ed.). (A.J. Brown, J.MacDonald-Jenkins, & M.Luctkar-Flude Eds.). Toronto: Elsevier.

Physical course materials





The following course materials are included in a course package that will be shipped to your home prior to your course's start date:

Bickley, L. (2015). *Bates' visual guide to physical examination* (5th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams, & Wilkins.

Other Resources

A variety of textbook online study resources, electronic journal articles and websites are used in the course. Paper copies are not included in the course package.

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services at AU](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 9, December 10, 2024

Updated July 3, 2025

View **previous revision** 
