





Nursing (NURS) 328

Understanding Research (Revision 8)

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

Delivery mode: Individualized study online 

Credits: 3

Area of study: Applied Study

Prerequisites: ENGL junior/senior (**ENGL 255** recommended). Available only to Bachelor of Nursing students or with professor approval

Pre/Co-requisites: **Post RN BN: MATH 215** or **MATH 216** or an equivalent introductory statistics course
Post LPN BN: NURS 250.

Precluded: None

Challenge: NURS 328 is not available for challenge.

Faculty: Faculty of Health Disciplines 

Notes:

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

Overview

Welcome to *Nursing 328: Understanding Research*. This course is designed to introduce learners to the research process and to the methods and analytical tools required to critically evaluate research reports. The goal is to excite you about research as you engage with your tutor and work through this course, demystifying the research process as you see how research applies to your professional life.

Outline

- Unit 1: The Value of Research and Evidence-Based Practice
- Unit 2: Philosophical Foundations of Research
- Unit 3: Qualitative and Quantitative Research
- Unit 4: Research Ethics
- Unit 5: Research Problems, Questions and Hypotheses
- Unit 6: Scholarly Evidence and Reviewing the Literature
- Unit 7: Quantitative Research Design
- Unit 8: Qualitative Research Design
- Unit 9: Sampling and Data Collection
- Unit 10: Data Analysis
- Unit 11: Critiquing Research Studies
- Unit 12: Knowledge Translation

Learning outcomes

The broad course outcomes are as follows:

- explain the importance of research to evidence-informed professional practice
- describe ethical considerations in research
- describe quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods approaches to research
- critically appraise research reports

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for NURS 328, students must complete and submit all required assignments, quizzes, and achieve a composite grade of at least **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	15%
Assignment 2	15%
Assignment 3	35%
Cumulative Units 1-6 Assessment (Invigilated)	15%
Cumulative Units 7-11 Assessment (Invigilated)	20%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).

The quiz will be an invigilated and located in the course study guide (the quiz is not booked through the myAU or the Exam Center). It is your responsibility to arrange invigilation directly through **Proctor U** [↗](#).

Materials

This course either does not have a course package or the textbooks are open-source material and available to students at no cost. This course has a **Course Administration and Technology Fee** [↗](#), but students are not charged the Course Materials Fee.

Blackstone, A. (2019). Principles of sociological inquiry: Qualitative and quantitative methods.

Retrieve from **Open BC Campus** [📖](#) (Print)

DeCarlo, M. (2019). Scientific inquiry in social work.

Pressbooks [📖](#) (Print)

Woo, K. (2019). Polit & Beck Canadian essentials of nursing research (4th ed.).

Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. [📖](#) (Print)

Please purchase the Woo textbook or access the Blackstone (2019) or DeCarlo (2019) text for free at the aforementioned site. You may also access a resource of your choice.

* Assigned readings in the course study guide apply to either of the above texts.





Supplemental Resources

A number of additional readings and other resources are included throughout the course. Clicking on the title of the reading or resource will allow you to access it directly via the AUs online library or the internet.

A complete list of all course readings and supplemental resources can be found in the Reference section of the course. Additional resources that you may find helpful in exploring specific topics are located in the Bibliography.

You are encouraged to search for resources and to share those resources with other students enrolled in the course by posting the URL for the resource in the Additional Resources Conference Forum.

Important links

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

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.

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View [previous revision](#) 
