ETSU College of Nursing
Undergraduate Programs

Formal Discussion Board Grading Guidelines and Grading Rubric
General Guidelines:

- **There is one (1) discussion board in this course.**
- **Discussion board will be open for 14 days. Students are to submit their initial post within the first seven (7) days. Initial postings are to be prior to responding to any other student posting.**
- **Peer Response posts will be due on day fourteen (14) of the DB. Please refer to the course calendar for specifics on all due dates.**
- Students must submit their posting directly into the discussion board composition box. A word document attached to the discussion board as a separate file WILL NOT be graded.
- Late postings will not be accepted.
- Postings are to follow the guidelines listed below for full credit. Excellent work is expected, and grading will reflect this expectation.
- Interactions on the discussion board will remain professional and constructive at all times.

Guidelines for Initial Posts

- The initial post must be supported by a minimum of one (1) Scholarly reference related to the discussion topic (this should be an article not included in the course content), in addition to referencing the assigned reading/course materials found in the course content (i.e. supplemental articles, text, etc.).
- This scholarly reference should be from a current (less than 5 years old), peer-reviewed journal from the Sherrod Library online database, unless the article chosen is a classic piece of evidence-based writing. American Journal of Public Health, Public Health Nursing, Social Science and Medicine, JAMA, Nursing Research, Research in Nursing & Health, New England Journal of Medicine, Western Journal of Nursing Research, and Applied Nursing Research are some suggested sources. Entry-level nursing journals such as AJN, RN, and Nursing are not acceptable.
- Use Internet sources very selectively, making sure that they are appropriately professional and in-depth. If you are unsure of the appropriateness of the website, use this link for additional information: https://usm.maine.edu/library/checklist-evaluating-web-resources.
- Information from the article must be cited using appropriate in-text citations in the body of the post. The following website is very helpful in formatting references and in-text citations: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
- The article's full citation should be presented at the end of the post using correct APA format.

Guidelines for Peer Response Posts

- Students are expected to provide one (1) meaningful response to a peer's post in addition to the initial post.
- Comments and responses should not be limited to positive reinforcement and/or social interaction. Postings of this nature are not acceptable and will earn a grade of "0". So, in other words, do not just respond with "good job" or "I agree". Follow-up posts must be substantive.
- The peer response post must be supported by a **minimum of one (1)** scholarly reference that contributes to the peers discussion topic.
- In the body of the response post, the student should:
  - demonstrate that he/she has read and reflected on the information presented in the initial post.
  - bring new discussion threads into the post by describing patient care experience(s) related to the topic
  - student may choose to respond to this new thread vs original student posting present the information using appropriate spelling and grammar.

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Discussion Board Grading Rubric

In this course, Discussion Boards (DB) will be graded based on quality, frequency, and responses. Discussion Boards will be open for ==seven (14) days== with the requirement of a minimum **of two posts** on **two separate** days to receive an excellent grade on each Discussion Board. You are to post your initial response within the **first seven days the DB is open and prior to responding** to other students. ==The Peer Response Post will be due on the 14th day of the DB==. Please see the course calendar for specifics for all due dates. **Your faculty will determine your score based on the guidelines posted in the rubric table below.**

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Criteria	Excellent **4 points**	Good **3 points**	Acceptable **1.5 points**	Needs Improvement **1 point**	Unacceptable **0 points**
Frequency	Participates on a minimum of **2** calendar days meaning the initial and peer response posts are on different days.		Participates on only of **1** calendar day meaning initial and peer response posts are on the same day.		Participates on **no** calendar days
Initial Posting	Demonstrates *synthesis* of assigned material, and incorporates **both** assigned textbook/course content readings **and** evidence-based information from a scholarly article into the content of the posting.	Demonstrates *analysis* of assigned material, and incorporates **either** assigned textbook/course content readings **or** evidence-based information from a scholarly article into the content of the posting.	Demonstrates *application* of assigned material, and incorporates **neither** the assigned textbook/course content readings reading **nor** an additional current, evidence-based article for information.	Post demonstrates *comprehension* of assigned material, and incorporates **neither** the assigned textbook/course content readings reading **nor** an additional current, evidence-based article for information.	Missing
Peer Response Posting	Demonstrates *analysis* of peer's post and assigned topic; incorporates at least **one (1)** supporting current, evidence-based article; builds on peer's post in a significant manner.	Demonstrates *application* of peer's post and assigned topic; incorporates support from the textbook/course content; builds on peer's post in a meaningful way.	Demonstrates an *understanding* of topic, elaborates with minimal integration of assigned material, and content is mostly opinions and/or personal experiences; includes additional supporting articles that are outdated and/or not scholarly	Minimal information provided that is off-topic, irrelevant, opinionated, or incorrect; does not include any supporting information/articles	Missing
Quality of Posts	Thoughts are organized, thoughtful, analyze content, and stay on topic; pose insightful ideas that clearly connect to the topic	Thoughts are appropriate and on topic, but lack depth and loosely connect to the topic	Information is accurate, but only summarized; incorporates opinions and personal experiences; marginal effort	Information is superficial and/or off topic; no connections made between topics and literature; minimal effort	NA – due to no posts
APA (includes grammar, punctuation, & sentence structure)	No errors with in-text citations or references; correct grammar and punctuation demonstrated; proficient sentence structure	1-2 errors with citations/references, grammar/punctuation, or sentence structure	3-4 errors with citations/references, grammar/punctuation, or sentence structure	4-5 errors with citations/references, grammar/punctuation, or sentence structure	NA – due to no posts

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