

Writing in Nursing Courses

1. What types of writing assignments can be expected in Nursing courses?

Several types of writing assignments that can be expected in Nursing courses are responses to case studies, an organized community assessment, written critiques of nursing journal articles, a paper concerning field work experience, and a critical issue paper. Most nursing courses require some type of a paper usually ranging from 5-10 pages in length.

2. What qualities are found in well-written Nursing papers?

Well-written papers in the discipline of Nursing contain synthesis of thought as well as proper flow. The paper must critically analyze the subject matter and consist of clear, organized, and well-developed ideas. If the professor provides a guideline or grading standards sheet, be sure to follow it.

3a. What kinds of evidence give a paper credibility? (For example, type of research, statistical data and facts, use of sources, professional indexes, etc.)

Students are encouraged to utilize sources from scholarly publications, especially nursing journals with a research focus. In the final paper, which is similar to Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of a thesis, the student must have 25 citations from scholarly publications. Resources must be recent in order to be credible.

3b. Which kinds of electronic or Internet sources are considered acceptable in this discipline and which are not?

Any Internet sources that are scholarly and meet the criteria established by the professor are acceptable in Nursing courses.

4. What citation styles are expected in Nursing courses?

When writing in Nursing courses, students must use APA format, 5th edition. Check the APA site for up-to-date information of documenting electronic sources.

<http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html>

5. Special concerns (advice, hints)

Students in Nursing courses are provided with an example of what a Nursing paper should look like. The format is that of a proper APA paper utilizing the title page, the running head, the pagination, the in-text citation, and the reference list. Students writing papers for Nursing classes are urged to write more than one sentence per paragraph. When writing papers for Nursing classes, students are discouraged from using big words they do not understand. Papers must be clear and concise. Nursing scholarly papers are rarely intended to be exercises in creative writing. Nursing papers should include original thoughts. Students must cite quotations and information lifted directly from sources and write properly structured sentences. Students are urged to run a spelling and grammar check and have someone proofread the paper.

For writing help bring your draft to the Writing Center.

http://www.cuw.edu/Tools/current_students/resources/writing_center.html

You can get online advice by clicking on the link “Check out the website for online handouts.”