

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH  
COLLEGE OF NURSING

The College of Nursing will build upon its tradition of developing caring and scholarly nurse leaders who positively impact contemporary and future health care.

Nursing 361 Human Health and the Environment

**NOTE:** ALL COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS WILL BE VIA UW OSHKOSH EMAIL ADDRESSES AND YOU NEED TO CHECK THIS FREQUENTLY.

Course Title: Human Health and the Environment

Credits: 2-3 credit variable

Placement: Junior or Senior standing or consent of instructor

Prerequisites: Nursing students: Completion of all required nursing courses prior to Junior I standing. Other students (including Environmental Studies): Environment and Living Systems [26-260] or Environmental Science (37-260) or equivalent or consent of instructor.

Course Description:

A systems perspective is used to explain the interconnections between human and ecosystem health as evident through current and emerging environmental health problems. Emphasis is on the influence of environmental agents on human health based on relevant epidemiologic, toxicologic, and exposure factors. Specific topics will include physical, chemical, and biological agents, routes and pathways of exposure, specific environmentally related diseases, vulnerable populations, and the legal context of environmental health.

Course Objectives:

1. Describe major environmentally related human health concerns and diseases in industrialized countries.
2. Apply concepts of epidemiology (agent, host, and environment) to explain the pattern and distribution of environmentally related diseases.
3. Apply knowledge of routes, pathways, and magnitude of exposure to explain susceptibility to environmentally related disease.
4. Compare and contrast physical, biological, and chemical agents as precipitants to environmentally related disease.
5. Discuss host characteristics which influence vulnerability to environmental hazards.
6. Apply basic principles of toxicology to appreciate the effect of environmental toxins on human systems.
7. Discuss known and anticipated effects of environmental changes, such as global warming and ecosystem instability, on human health and survival.
8. Discuss past and emerging environmental legislation related to the protection of human health.
9. Discuss the embodiment of environmental health concerns in social movements, such as the environmental justice movement, in the United States.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend classes and arrive punctually. If a class must be missed, it is the sole responsibility of the student to inform the instructor and obtain information missed due to the absence.

Teaching-Learning Method:

Seminar format as well as didactic methods will be utilized. The emphasis will be on active student participation through discussion and presentation of current environmental health issues, involvement in case studies and other class activities. Students will utilize library and data base skills to research environmental health issues.

Text:

See College of Nursing website.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based upon students' performance as determined by the individual instructor, as well as satisfactory attainment of course objectives. Grades are not rounded up.

Standardized testing may also be used. Students must pass the standardized test at a score established by the College of Nursing to successfully complete the course.

Disability Services:

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Please contact Disability Services (Dean of Students Office, 125 Dempsey Hall, 424-3100 [Voice], 424-1319 [TTY] for the University's accommodation request form and documentation requirements. Information related to an individual's accommodation request and/or arrangements will be confidential and will be shared with relevant University personnel or offices on a "need-to-know" basis.

Topical Outline

- I. Introductory Concepts
- II Environmental Epidemiology
- III Basic Toxicology
- IV. Vulnerable Hosts and Occupational Risks
- V. Biological Agents
- VI. Chemical Agents
- VII. Physical Agents
- VIII. Bioterrorism
- IX. Global Warming and Health
- X. Health Care Without Harm
- XI. Environmental Justice