

**Nursing Ethics/Nursing 595
Information Literacy Project
Spring 2013
Evaluation and Summary**

This information literacy project was completed over the course of the spring 2013 semester. Nursing 595/Nursing Ethics is a required graduate nursing course that is taught every spring semester. This particular course is one of the first that graduate students complete and was very appropriate for the incorporation of information literacy objectives that supported the enhancement of graduate student research skills. The course is an introduction to the intellectual foundations of ethical principles use in American Health Care and Professional Nursing. The course involved intensive and increasingly difficult case analysis relevant to advanced practice nursing. A significant component of the course required the students to locate, evaluate and effectively use published information to provide theoretical understanding and application of ethical principles to the role of the advanced practice nurse. Professor Betsy Moylan was consulted on all aspects of the project. This information literacy project was successfully implemented over the spring 2013 semester and will remain a required component of the course. Student learning outcomes were evaluated in three different ways over the course of the semester. They were evaluated in the grading component of specific course assignments, incorporation of knowledge related to information literacy on the midterm and final exams and the student comments and learning outcomes on the final course evaluation. The third column of the table that follows provides an evaluation and summary of the information literacy project as it related to each assignment in Nursing 595. Student comments are incorporated.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to incorporate information literacy into Nursing Ethics and would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Charles Kratz and the Library Advisory Committee's Information Literacy Subcommittee for granting me a stipend to complete this work. The opportunity to work closely with Professor Bonnie Oldham and Professor Betsy Moylan on this project helped put the finishing touches on the course assignments and provided a format for students to expand their library skills. These skills facilitated the development of case analysis papers on the topics of end of life, medical futility, substance abuse, and other topics relevant to advanced nursing practice. I plan to continue to refine and develop the information literacy component of this course. The addition of the library classes and specific information literacy objectives was very well received by the students. Ultimately their anxiety about researching their topic and using the library was reduced, and they did a much better job overall building a comprehensive reference list for the required assignments.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Course Assignment	Student Learning Outcomes Related to Information Literacy Standards	Evaluation and Summary
Complete/Review Academic Integrity Tutorial	Students will demonstrate awareness of the principles and practice of academic integrity through completion or review of the academic integrity tutorial program and discussion of these principles in class.	The academic integrity tutorial program was reviewed with all students. The principles were discussed in class. In addition the use of Turn-it-In for writing assignments was used to help students carefully evaluate their work and ensure that material cited in course assignments was done so correctly. <i>“The educational components covered in the library should be kept. These classes made me more confident in choosing articles for my projects and got me focused early in the semester. Turn it in helped be identify problem areas with my writing and citing of references.”</i>
Nursing Ethics Research Brief:	<p>Students will use Ref Works to develop a comprehensive bibliography related to the main topic of the case analysis paper</p> <p>The student will select a topic related to nursing ethics and practice, search the literature on the topic and read extensively developing a comprehensive familiarity with the topic and all points of view related to the topic.</p> <p>Students will select professional and scholarly resources for all written assignments.</p> <p>Data will be selected accurately.</p> <p>Verbatim material will be appropriately quoted.</p> <p>Demonstrate advanced searching techniques to select research studies addressing ethical issues in health care.</p> <p>Students will evaluate information critically and incorporate selected information into course assignments</p> <p>The students will understand the ethical, legal and socio-economic issues surrounding information technology.</p>	One class was dedicated to the development of a comprehensive bibliography on the student’s major topic for their final analytical paper. During this class Professor Betsey Moylan reviewed advanced searching techniques with the students and each student began to develop a reference list using Ref Works. All students enrolled in the class selected their topic within the first two weeks of the semester allowing them to develop a fairly comprehensive data base of material to support their literature for the case analysis. Review of final analytical papers revealed that all students had correctly selected scholarly resources for their written assignments, and quoted appropriately. Advanced searching techniques were used by the students to gather research on their topics. Two classes were held in the library so that students had faculty support and support from Professor Moylan as they critically selected and incorporated literature into their course assignments. Students demonstrated an understanding of the ethical, legal and socioeconomic issues surrounding information technology. In addition to evaluation of these objectives through the written assignments, objective questions related to the content were incorporated into the midterm and final examination for the course. <i>“Because the writing assignments started small and were connected I was building my case analysis all semester while at the</i>

		<i>same time polishing my library skills and developing more advanced skills that will help me in all of my academic work.”</i>
Code of Ethics Analysis	Evaluate information and its sources critically and incorporate selected information into personal knowledge base and value system.	This assignment required the student to examine the Code of Ethics for Nurses and make application of the code to their particular work setting. Evaluation of the document and its sources were incorporated into this writing assignment as well as on the midterm and final examination. <i>“This paper made the ethical component of my work come to the forefront and I spent much of the semester examining issues that are important to my practice but on a day to day basis are not addressed”</i>
Issues Forum	<p>Articulate and apply information related to an ethical dilemma.</p> <p>Students will use Ref Works to develop a comprehensive bibliography related to the main topic of the Issues Forum.</p> <p>The student will examine information from a variety of sources and evaluate reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness of the material as it relates to the issues forum topic.</p>	Each student made a verbal/PowerPoint presentation related to their literature review topic. Ref Works was used to develop a comprehensive bibliography and students were required to select articles that both supported and refuted their positions related to their topic. Objectives and concepts related to this project were also tested on the midterm and final exam. One student noted: <i>“This assignment allowed me to overcome my fear of presenting and examine research that supported and refuted my position on my topic”</i>
Analytical Paper	<p>All course assignments will be submitted via Turn-It-In</p> <p>Synthesize ethical research ideas to construct new concepts relevant to the case analysis paper.</p> <p>The students will compare new knowledge with prior knowledge to determine the value added, contradictions or other unique characteristics of the information</p> <p>Students will recognize interrelationships among concepts and combine them into potentially useful primary statements with supporting evidence.</p>	The analytical paper was the final culmination of this project. This paper was built over the course of the semester through the completion of smaller assignments that gradually led to the case analysis. This synthesis project required the student to incorporate a literature review that synthesized ethical research ideas to construct new concepts and present those concepts in a comprehensive manner. Objectives and concepts related to this project were also tested on the midterm and final exam. Several students noted that <i>“it was beneficial that all of the assignments connected in some way and that library work began early in the semester. This helped me to develop my research and writing skills and to build a solid bibliography for my final case analysis project.”</i>