

Nursing 84C: Critical Thinking in Nursing

Course Objectives

1. Explore the meaning of critical thinking.
 - a. Define critical thinking and its relation to individual style of thinking.
 - b. Compare and contrast thinkers and critical thinkers.
 - c. Identify self-strategies in taking a proactive approach to learning.
2. Examine and discuss factors that influence critical thinking ability.
 - a. Identify habits that create barriers to critical thinking.
 - b. Examine critical thinking habits of highly effective people.
 - c. Evaluate effective communication and its role in critical thinking.
 - d. Identify strategies that promote or enhance critical thinking.
3. Relate critical thinking to the nursing profession.
 - a. Identify the nursing process as a tool for critical thinking.
 - b. Explore concepts of effective clinical judgment.
 - c. Incorporate effective clinical judgment in the development of a comprehensive nursing care plan.
4. Distinguish when critical thinking reaches beyond clinical judgment.
 - a. Discuss the nurse's role in moral and ethical reasoning.
 - b. Discuss decision making regarding moral and ethical issues.
 - c. Incorporate critical thinking in the formulation of a teaching plan.
 - d. Examine the relationship of critical thinking to nursing research.
5. Incorporate the nursing process in the application of critical thinking skills.
 - a. Discuss the skill in identifying assumptions.
 - b. Appraise an organized and comprehensive assessment.
 - c. Explore validation of data.
 - d. Distinguish pertinent data from comprehensive assessment.
 - e. Establish and prioritize relevant nursing diagnoses.
 - f. Determine specific, realistic client-centered goals.
 - g. Identify specific interventions to achieve desired outcomes.