

**ODESSA COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM
SYLLABUS RNSG 1108 / FALL 2011**

COURSE TITLE:	Dosage Calculations for Nursing
CREDIT:	1 hour
PLACEMENT:	Prerequisite for program admission. Eight sections are offered every Spring and Fall semester, and two are offered Summer 1 and Summer 2. Twenty students are enrolled per section.
PREREQUISITES:	NONE
CO-REQUISITES:	NONE

LICENSING/CERTIFICATION AGENCY: TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING (BON)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course emphasizes critical thinking techniques to effectively, accurately and safely calculate dosages of medications. It includes reading, interpreting and solving calculation problems encountered in the preparation of medication. This course involves measurements within the apothecary, avoirdupois and metric systems. Learners will review basic math skills and learn systems of measurement. They will also learn Dimensional Analysis for calculating dosages of oral; powdered and parenteral; pediatric and adult weight-based; and, intravenous medications. Course materials are available through the printed text, the text disc and tutoring sessions scheduled throughout the semester. This course is appropriate for preparing LVN and RN learners. Due dates and times will be enforced. All materials required to complete the course will be made available the first day of class. Learners are encouraged to complete assignments early. The instructor is available for consultation and assistance via the internet, phone and scheduled tutoring times. (SCANS 3, 9)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The learner will:

1. Demonstrate competency in basic arithmetic function
2. Solve problems using a critical thinking approach
3. Demonstrate the ability to convert between the metric, apothecary, and avoirdupois

systems

4. Use Dimensional Analysis to calculate accurate dosages
5. Demonstrate the ability to calculate dosages based on body weight of pediatric and adult patients

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Course objectives utilize the framework of Differentiated Entry Level Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs. Upon successful completion of this course, the learner will be able to: (PO=Corresponding Program Objective)

Provider of Care:

1. Demonstrate competency in basic arithmetic functions
2. Solve problems using a critical thinking approach (PO#3, 7)
3. Accurately use and convert between Metric, Apothecary, and Avoirdupois (household) systems; and, be able to convert within each system (PO #3)
4. Read dosage and medication information using accepted terminology and abbreviations
5. Interpret medication orders
6. Calculate dosages using basic systems of measurement
7. Demonstrate knowledge of safe accurate medication calculation using Dimensional Analysis
8. Utilize the information on medication labels to calculate prescribed dosages
9. Calculate pediatric and adult medication dosages based on weight
10. Calculate intravenous solution flow rates for elective and manual infusion systems

TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS: The following methods may be incorporated into RNSG 1108:

1. Online instructional methodology
2. Examinations
3. Tutoring

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

Quizzes	25%
Participation	5%
Midterm	35%
Final exam	<u>35%</u>
TOTAL	100%

GRADING SCALE:

- A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 75-79
D = 60-74.99
F = 59 & Below

A final grade of C or higher must be attained in order to pass RNSG 1108. No grades will be rounded up to 75 to pass (Example: 74.99 = grade of D)

UNIT OUTLINE: Section 1: Refresher Math
Section 2: Introduction to Drug Measures
Section 3: Reading Medication Labels and Syringe Calibrations
Section 4: Dosage Calculation
Section 5: Dosage Calculation from Body Weight and Body Surface area
Section 6: Intravenous Calculations
Section 7: Pediatric Medication Calculations

SECTION OBJECTIVES: (CO= Corresponding Course Objective)

Section 1: Refresher Math
(Review only – Will not be tested)

Chapter 1: Relative Value, Addition, and Subtraction of Decimals (CO #1)

Chapter 2: Multiplication and Division of Decimals (CO #1)

Chapter 3: Solving Common Fraction Equations (CO #1)

Section 2: Introduction to Drug Measures
(Review and Testing on Chapters 4 & 5)

Chapter 4: Metric/International (SI) System (CO #1-4)

The learner will:

1. List the commonly used units of measure in the metric system
2. Express metric weights and volumes using correct notation rules
3. Convert metric weights and volumes within the system

Chapter 5: Unit, Percentage, Milliequivalent, Ratio, Household, and Apothecary Measures (CO #1-4)

The learner will recognize dosages:

1. Measured in units
2. Measured as percentages
3. Using ratio strengths
4. Measured in milliequivalents
5. In household measures
6. In apothecary measures

Section 3: Reading Medication Labels and Syringe Calibrations

(Review only of Chapter 7 – Review and Testing on Chapters 6, 8-11)

Chapter 6: Oral Medication Labels and Dosage Calculation (CO #1-5)

The learner will:

1. Identify scored tablets, unscored tablets, and capsules
2. Read drug labels to identify trade and generic names
3. Locate dosage strengths and calculate average dosages
4. Measure oral solutions using a medicine cup

Chapter 7: Safe Medication Administration

Chapter 8: Hypodermic Syringe Measurement (CO #1-7)

The learner will measure parenteral solutions using:

1. A standard 3 mL syringe
2. A tuberculin (TB) syringe
3. 5 and 10 mL syringes
4. A 20 mL syringe

Chapter 9: Parenteral Medication Labels and Dosage Calculation (C #1-8)

The learner will:

1. Read parenteral solution labels and identify dosage strengths
2. Calculate average parenteral dosages from the labels provided
3. Measure parenteral dosages in metric, milliequivalent, unit, percentage, and ratio strengths using 3 mL, TB, percentage, 10 and 20 mL syringes

Chapter 10: Reconstitution of Powdered Drugs (CO #1-8)

The learner will:

1. Prepare solutions from powdered drugs using directions printed on vial labels
2. Prepare solutions from powdered drugs using drug literature or inserts
3. Determine expiration dates and times for reconstituted drugs
4. Calculate simple dosages for reconstituted drugs

Chapter 11: Measuring Insulin Dosages (CO #1-8)

The learner will:

1. Identify different types of insulin currently in use
2. Discuss the difference between rapid-, short-, intermediate- and long-acting insulin
3. Read insulin labels to identify type
4. Read calibrations on 100 units/mL insulin syringes
5. Measure single insulin dosages
6. Measure combined insulin dosages

Section 4: Dosage Calculations
(Review and Testing on Chapter 12)

Chapter 12: Dimensional Analysis/Units Conversion (CO #1-8)

The learner will use dimensional analysis to calculate dosages.

Section 5: Dosage Calculation from Body Weight and Body Surface Area (Review and Testing on Chapter 13 – Review only of Chapter 14)

Chapter 13: Adult and Pediatric Dosages Based on Body Weight (CO #1-9)

The learner will:

1. Convert body weight from lb to kg and from kg to lb
2. Calculate dosages using mcg or mg / kg or lb
3. Determine if dosages ordered are within the normal range

Chapter 14: Adult and Pediatric Dosages Based on Body Surface Area [BSA]

Section 6: Intravenous Calculations (Review only of Chapters 15 & 19 – Review and Testing on Chapters 16-18)

Chapter 15: Introduction to IV Therapy

Chapter 16: IV Flow Rate Calculation (CO #1-10)

The learner will:

1. Identify IV calibrations in gtt/ml
2. Calculate flow rates using dimensional analysis
3. Recalculate flow rates to correct off-schedule infusions

Chapter 17: Calculating IV Infusion and Completion Times (CO #1-10)

The learner will calculate:

1. Infusion times
2. Completion times using international, military and standard time
3. Infusion time to label IV bag/bottle with start, progress and completion times

Chapter 18: IV Medication and Titration Calculations (CO #1-10)

The learner will calculate:

1. Flow rates to infuse ordered dosages
2. Dosages and flow rates based on kilogram (kg) body weight
3. Dosage and flow rate ranges for titrated medications

Chapter 19: Heparin Infusion Calculations

Section 7: Pediatric Medication Calculations (Review only - Will not be tested)

Chapter 20: Pediatric Oral and Parenteral Medications

Chapter 21: Pediatric Intravenous Medications

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Curren, A. M. (2006). *Dimensional analysis for meds.* (4th ed.). Delmar: New York.

COURSE POLICIES:

1. Dates and times for quizzes/tests will be announced in e-mail and in orientation. All testing is “take-home” (except for the final) and must be completed by hand on campus. The quizzes and midterm exam are provided under “assignments.” The final exam counts as 35% of your grade. Failure to turn in a quiz, the midterm or final at the proper time will result in a “zero” for that quiz/midterm/final.
2. Quizzes are provided in order to encourage practice and precision. They are weighted 25% of the course grade. The quizzes are provided under “assignments.” Quizzes 1-5 are due per assigned dates. Failure to turn a quiz in at the proper time will result in a “zero” for that quiz.
3. You must show all of your work by hand in order to get full credit for each quiz. Work must be legible and must be hand written.
4. You can mail, email, fax or deliver your quizzes and midterm to the OC Associate Degree Nursing Department in CT 221. The office is open from 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday; and, 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Fridays during the spring and fall semesters. In the summer it is open from 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday during the summer sessions.
5. You may reach me by telephone 432-935-4712 or e-mail me at msnow@odessa.edu to discuss specific problems, assignments or other issues. I will make every effort to get back to you within 48 hours. I am available for tutoring on campus on dates set up at the beginning of the semester to be announced by email and orientation.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: No campus attendance is required, except for the final exam.

ABSENCE FROM EXAMS: If you will be late turning in a quiz you must notify the instructor 36 hours prior to the due date and time. It is your responsibility to arrange to complete all quizzes and the midterm; and, to complete the course on time.

Military Time Explained: Your book does not explain military time so I am including this summery to explain how military time is calculated. All hospitals, pharmacies, clinics, etc. use this way of marking time since it is less confusing and more accurate.

Military time works on a 24 hour clock instead of 2, 12 hour periods. It is a more accurate way of communicating time to other people (either verbally or in writing) and is the reason it is used in medicine. All numbers after noon continue to rise rather than go back to start at 1 again. Thus, 1 p.m. is 1300 in military time and 2 p.m. is 1400. Likewise, one minute before midnight would be 2359. One minute after midnight would be 0001. Any time in the a.m. will begin with a "0" to make it most clear. Thus 2 a.m. becomes 0200 (pronounced "oh two hundred"), 6 a.m. is 0600 (pronounced "oh six hundred").

Use the above instructions to answer questions in the quizzes.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Dimensional Analysis for Meds (Fourth Edition) textbook
Student Practice Software disc located in the back of the book
Teacher's Tips (located on Blackboard)
Internet

Dimensional analysis is a systematic method of problem solving that avoids the use of formulas. It is much easier to learn one method that works for all problem solving. It requires a working knowledge of conversion factors and equivalencies. Equivalent are factors that are equal to each other. For example: [3 ft = 1 yard] is an equivalent or has the same value. Flipping the equation [1 yard = 3 ft] does not change its value. The same is true with [36 inches = 1 yard] and [1 yard = 36 inches]. Conversion factors are equivalents that are necessary for moving between the different systems of measurement [apothecary, metric, and household].

Steps for using Dimensional Analysis:

1. Carefully read the problem. Determine the GIVEN QUANTITY (which is given to you in the problem).
2. Determine DESIRED QUANTITY (answer) unit of measure (ml, mg, minutes, etc.).
3. Determine what CONVERSION FACTORS you will need to use. Some may be given to you in the problem (like how many mg/ml) while others we expect you to know (for example, how many cc's in a teaspoon).
4. SET UP: Dimensional analysis problems are set up like fractions, with a numerator (top number/s) and a denominator (bottom number/s). Set up the problem so that the unwanted units are canceled out. If you are given mg on top, and you really want the answer in mL, you would set up the problem using mL to mg conversion (given in the problem) and place mg on the bottom, so mg will cancel out. [I know this doesn't make sense but hang in there, it gets easier as you work the problems.]
5. Cross out the units that cancel out, leaving nothing but the desired quantity.

6. Do the basic math. Solve the problem by using basic math (no algebra needed). Multiply the numbers across. Divide the top number by the bottom number. You now have the correct answer!

Sample Problem: *Ordered: Ceclor 500 mg
*Wanted Quantity: _____ mL
*Conversion Factor: 400 mg / 5 mL (given in the problem)
*Set up:

$$\frac{5 \text{ mL}}{400 \text{ mg}} = \frac{500 \text{ mg}}{1 \text{ dose}}$$

*Do the basic math:
Multiply the numbers across, then divide the number on top by the number on bottom

$$(500 \times 5) \div 400 = 6.25 \text{ mL}$$

COURSE CALENDAR: This is a “paced” online course. In other words, students will not be allowed to complete this course prior to the end of the semester. Orientation, tutoring sessions, deadlines, due dates, and final exam date and times will be sent to all students via a “Welcome” e-mail/announcement the first day of class.