



A SUCCESS STORY



Cindy Fenske, RN, DNP, CNE

Collegiate Lecturer IV

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

COURSE NAME: Health and Illness in Young, Middle, and Older Adults • CREDIT HOURS: 9

TEXT: *Medical-Surgical Nursing: Preparation for Practice* by Osborn

COURSE FORMAT: Traditional • THE NEIGHBORHOOD USER SINCE: 2009

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COURSE INFORMATION

- This course serves 150 students per year.
- This course is taken by all BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) students in the third year of their program.

COURSE OBJECTIVES This course provides theoretical perspective, evidence-based nursing knowledge, and critical thinking in experiences basic to providing research-based nursing care. Students gain skills toward promoting, maintaining, and restoring health in or providing end-of-life care for young, middle, and older adults.

ASSESSMENT

- Five Exams: 70%
- Clinical Assignments: 30%
- Additionally, students may earn up to 3% extra credit on 3 of the exams by completing a corresponding extra credit assignment in The Neighborhood. Most students take advantage of this opportunity.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD

IMPLEMENTATION

The Neighborhood provides students with virtual patient experience in a safe environment. I adopted The Neighborhood to provide exemplar patients to use in our case studies. Because this course is at the junior level, students enter the course with considerable foundational knowledge. We apply those concepts in patient care, using characters from The Neighborhood. Also, we use a

high-fidelity simulation mannequin in our course. I program the mannequin to respond with the characteristics of individuals from The Neighborhood.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD BENEFITS The case studies that I use from The Neighborhood are much more robust than any that I could create. First, they include the medical records for each character. Additionally, the cases are intertwined because the characters have relationships with one another. This gives the students a better understanding of the complexities of patient care.

The Neighborhood is a tool that facilitates active teaching and learning. My students are now more engaged, active learners. After caring for the patients from The Neighborhood for a semester, students feel as though they know the characters as patients and people.

As an instructor, my life is easier because I do not have to create my own case studies. This has saved me at least 20 hours each semester!

“The Neighborhood makes my course come alive because students are caring for real patients with real conditions.”

—Lecturer Cindy Fenske

CONCLUSION The Neighborhood adds realism to my teaching. It makes my course come alive because students are caring for real patients with real conditions.