

**BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**DIVISION OF BUSINESS, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL STUDIES**

**Instructor:**  
**Telephone:**  
**Email:**  
**Office Hours:**  
**Office Hours:**

**Course Title:** LGN-105 Principles of Legal Nurse Consulting

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Examines the history and evolution of nurse consulting and legal theories. The role of the nurse paralegal is explored as it relates to the review and analysis of medical records, litigation process, trial and witness preparation, standards of care, risk management insurance issues, and alternative forms of dispute resolution. Business principles for nurse paralegals are also covered.

An examination of the history and evolution of the legal nurse consultant and legal theories. Nurse paralegal roles are explored in the areas of review and analysis of medical records; nurse paralegal roles in the litigation process including trial and witness preparation including expert witnesses; standards of care; risk management insurance issues; and alternative disputes resolution and mediation. Business principles for nurse paralegals are also covered.

**PREREQUISITES:** NONE  
**CREDITS:** 3  
**HOURS:** 3

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** *Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting*, Weishapple, West Publishing, 2001 (or most recent edition)  
*Legal Nurse Consulting Principles and Practice*, Patricia W. Iyer., et al, American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants, 2003 (or most recent edition)

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:** To be provided by professor during the semester as handouts on an as needed basis.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The objectives of this course are to :

1. Provide the history and evolution of the legal nurse consultant. Identify and define the principles of litigation and the roles of the nurse paralegal in the legal system.

Measure: Students will take exams and submit projects and homework assignments during the course. These projects will relate to analysis of the legal nurse consultant and the relationship of the legal nurse consultant to our court system and applications to the legal-medical case.

Standard: At least 80% of all students will receive an average grade of “70” or better on the projects, exams and homework assignments. Projects will be reviewed with students and concepts reinforced.

2. Demonstrate how to review, analyze and summarize medical records and prepare for communication to the legal professional and for use of the medical data in a legal context.

Measure: Students will submit projects, homework assignments and exams during the course which will require the review, analysis and interpretation of medical records within the context of our legal system. Projects will include preparation of opinions and memoranda, use of forms and appropriate practice aides. Students will be required to utilize their research and writing skills.

Emphasis will also be placed on legal medical ethical concerns.

Standard: At least 80% of all students will receive an average grade of “70” or better on these examinations and projects. Projects and exams will be reviewed with students and concepts reinforced. Homework assignments will be required specifically addressing this course objective.

3. Explain the principles of trial preparation and procedures as a legal nurse including the analysis of documentary evidence and testimony.

Measure: Students will submit projects during intervals during the course which will discuss preparing the medical-legal case for trial. Analysis will include review of the trial process, testimony, reports, opinions, memoranda and their relationship to the legal trial. Consideration will given to the plaintiff and defendant perspective. Concepts will consider ethical issues.

Standard: At least 80% of all students will receive an average grade of “70” or better on these homework assignments, exams and projects. Projects, exams and homework assignments will be reviewed with students and concepts reinforced.

4. Describe the roles of the nurse paralegal as an expert witness, risk management consultant and managed care professional.

Measure: Students will take exams and submit projects and homework assignments which will have components requiring the student to explore and consider different fields relating to the

practice of the legal nurse consultant. Case studies will also consider this objective from the standpoint of opportunity and professional development.

Standard: At least 80% of all students will receive an average grade of “70” or better on the exams and projects. Projects, exams and homework assignments will be reviewed with students and concepts reinforced.

## **TOPICAL OUTLINE:**

### **Class 1 (3 hours)**

Building the bridge between medical and legal; history of the profession, duties, qualifications, training, future trends, certification

Opportunities: independent consulting, insurance, education, law firms, government, business and industry

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 1 and 2

### **Class 2 (3 hours)**

Planning for a career in law, changing career paths, self-assessment, career goals and planning, compensations and benefits

Crossing the bridge to employment, marketing, finding potential employers, initial contract, resumes and CV's, interviews and follow up.

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 3 and 4

### **Class 3 (3 hours)**

Crossing the bridge to independent practice, entrepreneurial spirit, products and services, types of business organizations, legal considerations, mission, goal strategic plans, the business plan, financing as small business, marketing and independent legal nurse consulting business, client relations,

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 5 and 6

### **Class 4 (3 hours)**

Foundation of the American Legal System, State and Federal Legal Systems, Resolution of Legal Disputes, litigation.

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 7 and 8

Note: Commence Semester Project

**Class 5 (3 hours)**

Civil, Criminal and Administrative resolution, alternative dispute resolution, legal nurse consultant profile. Case study

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 9 and 10

**Class 6 (3 hours)**

Legal Analysis – legal reasoning, facts, law and evaluating the legal problem. Legal authority, types, sources, statutes, administrative regulations, case law.

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 11 and 12

**Class 7 (3 hours)**

Persuasive application of Authority, legal reasoning, synthesizing facts and law, role of the legal nurse consultant. Brief writing.

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 13 and 14

**Class 8 (3 hours)**

Legal Research – Overview, citation, publication, primary and secondary authorities.

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 15 and 16

Note: Midterm Examination

**Class 9 (3 hours)**

Judicial Source of Law, court opinions, case law, federal and state. Administrative sources of law, enabling legislation, Administrative Law Courts

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 17 and 18

**Class 10 (3 hours)**

Secondary Authorities – Dictionaries, restatements, legislative history. Introduction to Tort and Personal Injury Law, classification of torts, negligence and intentional torts.

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 19 and 20

**Class 11 (3 hours)**

Negligence – principles and assessment, defenses, liability.

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 21 and 22

**Class 12 (3 hours)**

**Strict Liability and Products Liability**

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 23 and 24

**Class 13 (3 hours)**

Class Actions and Multidistrict Litigation, case management, role of the legal nurse consultant.

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 25 and 26

**Class 14 (3 hours)**

Evidence Law, principles and application, including witness testimony and physical evidence. Basics of Civil Procedure. Ethics and professional associations.

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 24, 25, 33, 34

**Class 15 (3 hours)**

Medical Legal Writing and Correspondence, Medical Summaries, Medical Bill Review, Life Care Plans and Medical Literature Review, Preparation for Trial

Assignment: Introduction to Legal Nurse Consulting, Chapters 28, 29, 30, 31

**Class 16 (3 hours)**

Note: Final Exam

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:**

Library Resources: Journal and Newspaper Articles as assigned,  
Reference Materials as assigned  
Audio Visual Materials as assigned

**Methods of Evaluation:** Students will be assigned (1) research paper and (1) project composed of a literature search, 1 quiz, a mid-term examination and a final examination. The grading shall be apportioned as follows:

Homework/Participation	10%
Paper, Project and Quiz	45%
Mid-term examination	20%
Final examination	25%
TOTAL	<hr/> 100%

**Grading Systems:** grading scale shall be based upon the scale and allowable grades as established by the rules of Bergen Community College

**Homework:** Assignment submission will be required for course credit as assigned and required by the Professor during the semester and will be integrated into final grade pursuant to evaluation procedures listed above.

**Attendance:** Will be taken at each session and is subject to the rules of the college. Attendance at lectures is imperative to acquisition and understanding of the substantive material of the course. Habitual absence and/or tardiness may result in loss of credit for the course. Students are instructed to notify the professor prior to absences, if known and are responsible for the materials from classes which are missed. Students are required to take all examinations on the announced date or otherwise scheduled at the discretion of the instructor. All projects and examinations must be completed for credit for the course.

**Faculty absence:** A daily listing will appear in the glass case located in the front lobby of the Administration Wing of the main building which will indicate all classes which are cancelled. Another listing will appear in the glass case adjacent to the Hotel/Restaurant bulletin board in East Hall. Students may consult these bulletin boards before going to class.