With successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Objective: Differentiate research from other methods of gaining knowledge.
   A. Historical evolution of research in nursing
   B. Research defined
   C. Characteristics of the scientific approach
   D. Common relationships used in scientific thinking
      - theory/hypothesis
      - data collection/analysis
      - concept/indicator

2. Objective: Describe the ethical and legal considerations in the conduct of health care research.
   A. Rights of research participants
   B. Responsibilities of the researcher
   C. Factors involved in informed consent
   D. Vulnerable populations which require special consideration

3. Objective: Contrast the major types of quantitative and qualitative research designs.
   A. Definition of research design
   B. Purpose of the research design
   C. Major characteristics of each research design
   D. Principles of research design
      - control
      - internal validity
      - external validity
      - time dimension

4. Objective: Explain the steps of the research process.
A. Problem
B. Purpose
C. Theoretical framework
D. Literature Review
E. Hypothesis/research questions
F. Methodology
   - sampling issues
   - measurement issues—validity and reliability of instrument
   - design
   - data collection methods
G. Analysis and Discussion
H. Dissemination of results
I. Utilization

5. Objective: Demonstrate the ability to read research reports critically.
   A. Use of information resources to obtain peer-reviewed research reports relating to nursing practice
   B. Purpose and relevance
   C. Review of literature
   D. Clarity of the report
   E. Ethical considerations
   F. Assumptions and limitations
   G. Operational definitions
   H. Methodology
   I. Data analysis
   J. Findings and conclusions
   K. Recommendations

6. Objective: Relate relevant research findings to professional nursing practice.
   A. Research utilization as compared to EBP
   B. Evidence-based practice
   C. Cochrane Collaboration
   D. Agency for Health Care Research and Quality

7. Objective: Evidence critical thinking skills in class discussion, written work, online assignments, and oral/visual/voice-enhanced presentations.
   A. Correct use of common research terms in discussing research studies
   B. Information literacy skills in finding research article in peer-reviewed journal

II. METHODOLOGY & POLICIES
   A. Teaching Method Options
      Readings, Lecture, Multimedia, Discussion Board, and Group Activities
B. Evaluation Methods
Rubrics and grading criteria are provided for all assignments. Please read the rubrics and the grading criteria before completing the assignments. Following the assignment criteria will optimize your efforts toward successful course completion.

Please Note: A minimum grade of C- is required to pass this course.

II. COURSE POLICIES:

**College of Health Professions Attendance Policy:** Because class sessions are highly interactive, any student’s absence diminishes the quality of learning for everyone.

Students are expected to attend all in-class sessions and to log on and participate in all online sessions as the course format requires. Failure to do so may be considered an unexcused absence. Be apprised that faculty have the ability to monitor your access to Blackboard sessions. please note that your weekly attendance is electronically tracked and is a criterion for your final course grade. Communication with your course faculty is essential.

**College of Health Professions Response Time Policy:**

Faculty will generally respond to all student communication within 24-48 hours unless a weekend or holiday. Please refer to your course faculty’s specific availability as noted within the course.

**Online Learning Considerations:**

Online learning courses are offered in a seven week format which is designed to move the motivated student through the nursing curriculum at an accelerated pace. A significant amount of the student learning is done via independent assignments and requires the use of the Internet and the Blackboard course learning management system.

Resources for Online Students, including Blackboard Technical Support, can be accessed at: [http://www.wilmu.edu/onlinelearning/dl_current.aspx](http://www.wilmu.edu/onlinelearning/dl_current.aspx)