UCLA School of Nursing

MECN Comprehensive Examination

Spring 2017

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Examination Dates for Spring 2017:

**Due:** Written exam must be submitted electronically **no later than 8:00 AM on Saturday, April 8, 2017.** Papers may be submitted electronically as early as **Wednesday, March 22, 2017.** Examinations are submitted electronically through CCLE Moodle site. Next, select the turnitin link located under Nursing 597 course. Lastly, upload your exam to the “Comprehensive Exam” turnitin assignment. Your electronic submission is one PDF document including the following:

1. Cover sheet (sample included on page 8)
2. Your final composition
3. Your Table of Evidence

**IMPORTANT:** Files must be named appropriately to be processed correctly:
Exam Code __MECN__17S.pdf. For example: 0000 __MECN__17S.pdf

Submission of your composition signifies your adherence to the [UCLA Code of Academic Integrity and Honesty](#).
Process

1. For Spring quarter, you must enroll in **Nursing 597 (Section 2) Individual Study for Comprehensive Examination**. Turnitin.com will be available on **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**.

2. Questions about the examination cannot be addressed to individual faculty members or administrators, but students may post question on the comp exam website: [http://comps.sonnet.ucla.edu](http://comps.sonnet.ucla.edu). Responses to Questions will be provided by designated faculty members and responses will be posted for all MECN students within 72 hours. This is the same site where you obtain your exam documents. Students are encouraged to check the website and read the FAQs before submitting a new question.

3. A late paper cannot be submitted via CCLE Moodle –Turnitin.com. Unless approved by the Curriculum Committee in advance due to extenuating circumstances, a late paper will not be read. **The exam will be scored as a failed exam.**

4. Grading will be Pass/Fail. Examinations are randomly assigned and blindly reviewed by two faculty members. In the event of a Pass and a Fail grade, a third faculty member will evaluate the examination. If the student's paper receives a failing grade from two readers, the student will have to retake the examination.

5. Two retakes are allowed. Retakes will be scheduled during the Summer and Fall. A similar process as described for Spring Quarter will be followed.

6. Students who submit their examination to the Turnitin.com assignment websites on time will receive a satisfactory grade for Nursing 597 course. A satisfactory grade does not reflect a passing comprehensive examination score. **Your exam results will be emailed to your official UCLA email account. All examination results are sent on the same day to all students.** Please do not contact faculty or staff members for your results; they will be emailed to everyone once all scores are available.

7. Exam Codes will be distributed by Week 2, Winter Quarter, 2017. Your paper will be identified by the Exam Code assigned by the Academic Affairs Office. **Your name must not be included anywhere in your paper.** If you lose your exam code, please contact LaWanda Bowles-Costello ([lcostello@sonnet.ucla.edu](mailto:lcostello@sonnet.ucla.edu)).

8. The paper must be your independent work. You must adhere to the Academic Integrity and Honesty pledge. No discussion, consultation or sharing of information regarding the paper will be allowed. Your paper may not be a duplication of a paper written during graduate school. You may not discuss the examination with faculty, preceptors, fellow students, family members, colleagues, co-workers, friends, and others. Any questions about
this policy should be directed to Dr. Eufemia Jacob, Chair of the Curriculum Committee: ejacob@sonnet.ucla.edu.

9. Evidence of plagiarism will result in a failing grade. You are strongly urged to visit the following website for directions on accurate citation and paraphrasing in research papers: http://owl.english.purdue.edu.
   a) Click on the link for Non-Purdue Instructors and Students
   b) Click on the link for Research and Citation
   c) Click on the following links: Avoiding Plagiarism, Paraphrase: write it in your own style, and Quoting, paraphrasing and summarizing.

10. Editorial assistance may be requested, but the student must provide a strong case for requesting assistance. Generally, petitions for editorial assistance are approved for students for whom English is a second language and who graduated from a non-English speaking University. Your petition will not be approved if you received a Bachelor degree from an English-speaking University.

Requests for editorial assistance should be submitted in writing as soon as possible, but no later than January 15, 2017 and approved by the Curriculum Committee. Email your request to the Curriculum Committee (c/o LaWanda Bowles-Costello: lcostello@sonnet.ucla.edu). All requests must include a written statement of your rationale for the request and must indicate that you plan to use the Graduate Writing Center

Students with approved requests for editorial assistance must see writing consultants at the Graduate Writing Center (GWC) which is a free service. When approved, you will need to contact Marilyn Gray, PhD, the Coordinator of the GWC and point person with the Center’s writing consultants by email: mgray@saonet.ucla.edu. Please note that the GWC only allows weekly meetings with consultants, scheduled in advance electronically. The GWC is closed over Winter and Spring Break, and on University holidays.

11. Special accommodations through the CAE (Center for Accessible Education) will require previous registration and authorization from the CAE office by January 15, 2017 and will need formal approval by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Email your request to the Academic Affairs & Curriculum Support Analyst (c/o LaWanda Bowles-Costello: lcostello@sonnet.ucla.edu).

HELPFUL HINTS:
1. Do not wait until the last minute to upload your paper as unexpected computer problems may occur. The assignment is set to close at 8 am.
2. All parts of your paper must be uploaded to Turnitin.com as one document, including Coversheet and Table of Evidence (TOE).
3. Please visit Turnitin.com Student Training page for tutorial videos.
4. Check that your current email address is listed on MyUCLA since exam results are emailed to the address you designate as your official UCLA email address.
Format

1. Create a Cover Sheet using the template provided in this packet (see page 8). The Cover Sheet should include:
   a. The Quarter when you take the exam, e.g., Spring 2017
   b. Exam Code 4-digit number (given to you by Academic Affairs)
   c. List MECN as your specialty
   d. The name of the problem you responded to
   e. Indicate whether you received approved Editorial Assistance.

2. **Strict 15 page maximum** (excluding references, tables, and figures). Tables and figures must follow the sequence of the writing.

3. Appendices are not permitted.

4. Double spaced, typed, one-inch margins. Summary table of the literature reviewed (i.e., Table of Evidence) may be single spaced. A template for the Table of Evidence is provided on the Comp Exam website (http://comps.sonnet.ucla.edu/) to assist you with formatting. You must use the same column headings as the sample provided and include DOIs when available.
   
   **Note:** This is an example of the minimum type-size font to use when typing your paper. You may use an equivalent font to that used in this example: **Times New Roman 11 pt.**

5. Place your Exam Code number in place of your name at the bottom right of each page and the page number at the top. If your computer will only create page numbers at the bottom of the page, place the exam code at the top right of each page. The important thing is to be consistent throughout the document.

Overview: The purpose of the MECN Comprehensive exam is to demonstrate the student’s ability to evaluate existing nursing and health care research and to translate research and clinical outcomes studies into practice. The exam addresses the following clinical nurse leader core competencies:

1) **critical thinking** (apply research-based knowledge from nursing and the sciences as the foundation for evidence-based practice);

2) **communication** (produce clear, accurate, and relevant writing);

3) **illness and disease management** (synthesize data, information, and knowledge on client outcomes and modify interventions to improve health care outcomes);

4) **human diversity** (provide holistic care that addresses the needs of diverse populations across the life span); and

5) **health care systems and policy** (interpret health care research for consumers and officials).

Students will select one of the problems listed below in Section I.A. The scope and significance of the problem within the selected population will be discussed. At least one theoretical or conceptual framework will guide the development of a research question and subsequent discussion. Using an evidence-based approach, students will develop a clinical question in PICO(T) format to guide a focused, thorough literature search. The student will select, summarize and critique 7-10 relevant primary source articles (data-based), which will be presented in a Table of Evidence (TOE). The systematic methodology must be described in detail. (Review articles, clinical practice guidelines, and meta-analyses may not be counted among the 7-10 source articles but can be used as references to support the discussion). The student will critically appraise the selected research findings for applicability within their identified population. Relevance and implications for Clinical Nurse Leader roles will be discussed and synthesized. Supported by evidence, the student will identify and describe a population-appropriate intervention that addresses the problem. The student will delineate the methods used to carry out the intervention, and measure and evaluate the outcomes as relevant to the Clinical Nurse Leader role.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Areas to be addressed</th>
<th>B. Area Content Evaluation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Problem Conceptualization and Context (13%)</strong></td>
<td>1. Scope of problem (population, severity, current prevention, guidelines and application to Clinical Nurse Leader role.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Identify a specific problem related to one choice from the list of general topics:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1) Fluid balance</td>
<td>2. Significance of problem and relevance to nursing care</td>
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<td>2) Promoting patient safety at a systems level</td>
<td>3. Theoretical framework discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Fatigue</td>
<td>4. Narrowing topic and proposed PICO(T) research question.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Indicate scope and significance of problem in identified population</td>
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<td>C. Theoretical approaches relevant to topic to be used throughout paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Propose a research question, in PICO(T) format</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>II. Literature Review: Critical Appraisal (32%)</strong></td>
<td>1. Methodology procedural steps, databases used, inclusion/exclusion criteria, selection and modification of MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) terms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In response to the above research question,</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Describe the methodological process for identifying and selecting 7-10 appropriate primary source, peer reviewed articles in a focused, thorough literature search.</td>
<td>2. Rationale for inclusion of each article is included.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Summarize essential information regarding each study in a Table of Evidence (TOE), using the provided column headings in the TOE Template.</td>
<td>3. TOE provides an original, thorough, concise, accurate content summary of each article.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. In the body of the paper, integrate and elaborate key elements and important findings for each article. Include elements of critical appraisal (validity, reliability and applicability) and other points needed to support your selection and evaluate merit of the study.</td>
<td>4. Important aspects of each article within the TOE are further discussed and interpreted in the body of the paper, including strengths &amp; weaknesses, critical appraisal (validity, reliability and applicability) and other relevant points.</td>
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### III. Literature Review: Analysis, Synthesis and Application (32 %)

A. Using an evidence-based approach, present a synthesis of research findings discussed in above section. The synthesis presents general conclusions reached by the student, based on an analysis of the differences and similarities observed in the articles summarized in the TOE.

B. Interpret and discuss implications for Clinical Nurse Leader role from a clinical and a theoretical framework perspective. Apply research findings to Clinical Nurse Leader role in a specific population, describing how these findings could be implemented in the chosen practice population.

C. Address knowledge gaps and indications for future research

### IV. Intervention (13%)

A. Select and provide a detailed implementation of an intervention specific to the identified population. (More than one intervention is permitted)

B. Intervention: peer-reviewed, established educational, psychosocial, clinical or systems-based. Designed to solve problem related to selected topic & population.

C. Intervention(s) may be adapted if needed to address particular needs of an identified population or Clinical Nurse Leader role.

D. Health Care System—describe features that influence the problem under study, such as health and healthcare disparities, access, cost, ethical, scope of practice and interprofessional aspects.

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<tr>
<th>1) Analysis—identification of common significant findings and any conflicting findings.</th>
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<tr>
<td>2) Integration &amp; Synthesis—Examination of relationships and degree of cohesion/conflict in research findings across studies. Application and integration of findings with selected theoretical framework(s).</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Significance specific to Population &amp; Clinical Nurse Leader Role. Knowledge gaps are described.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1) Describe the intervention(s) and their relevance or fit with theoretical framework.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Discuss clinical setting/environmental factors/health care system factors (see IV. D).</td>
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<td>3) Discussion includes, strengths/weaknesses, and how the Clinical Nurse Leader would maximize resources to insure optimal outcomes</td>
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<td>4) Measurement and evaluation of outcomes for this intervention.</td>
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<td>5. Impact of Health Care System discussed fully with contextual detail specific to the population and problem under consideration.</td>
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<td>V. Organization and Clarity (10%)</td>
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UCLA
School of Nursing
Comprehensive Examination

Cover Sheet

Quarter: Spring 2017
Exam Code: ____________
Specialty: MECN

Please check one of the following:

I received approved editorial assistance: _____
I did not receive editorial assistance: _____

By submitting my comprehensive exam, I acknowledge all work as my own independent effort. I also agree to adhere to the University’s policies regarding academic integrity. This paper is my own independent effort. In effect, I did not consult with fellow students, professional colleagues or others to write this examination. This is not a paper prepared for another course. If I used editorial assistance, I have received approval from the School of Nursing Curriculum Committee Chair.