

## **NSG 488: Registered Nurse First Assistant Theory, Practice, and Clinical Practicum**

### **Pre-Requisite(s)**

Students must meet all pre-admission requirements for RNFA education as outlined by AORN (available upon request).

### **Co-Requisite(s)**

None

### **Credit Hours**

Classroom, Didactic: 3 Credits

Clinical: 3 Credits

### **Course Format:**

Complete Online

### **Meeting Days, Times, and Locations**

See Course Schedule

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to provide the learner with a comprehensive understanding of the perioperative process, building upon knowledge of anatomical structures and physiology, indications for surgical intervention, assisting considerations, intraoperative performance of surgical first-assisting techniques, and evaluation of the and postoperative patient outcomes.

The **didactic** portion of this course will emphasize the expanded functions unique to the RN First Assistant including the legal, regulatory, and professional issues as well as the specific role of the RNFA in management of patients across the preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative phases incorporating the three dimensions of Socialization Theory—professional socialization, organizational socialization, and role socialization.

The **clinical** portion of this course will focus on the learner's application of knowledge to safely perform the skills required during the perioperative process. Emphasis will be placed on the development of advanced surgical assisting skills, such as providing surgical site exposure, tissue handling, cutting tissue, suturing, providing hemostasis, using surgical instruments, and wound management. Students will collaborate and communicate with other healthcare providers to develop a plan of care to achieve optimal patient outcomes. In collaboration with a board-certified surgeon preceptor, as well as a RNFA or CRNFA mentor (optional), students will develop personalized learning objectives and identify learning resources to enhance the knowledge and skills necessary for competent RNFA practice and role development. Open to nonmatriculated students. Special application required

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course, the student will achieve the following identified outcomes

#### **Didactic:**

1. Analyze factors influencing the role and scope of the role of the RNFA.
2. Integrate the independent and collaborative aspects of patient care, utilizing the nursing process as a framework.

3. Apply principles of asepsis, infection control, and epidemiology in best practices of nursing care of the perioperative patient.
4. Differentiate between abnormal anatomy and physiology as they pertain to the indications for surgical intervention, assisting considerations, and evaluation of postoperative patient outcomes.
5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for collaboration and best practices for the RNFA.
6. Recognize the indication(s) for hemostasis, handling tissue, retraction/exposure, using surgical instruments and suturing.

**Clinical:**

7. Demonstrate competent intraoperative RNFA behaviors including:
  - a. Preparation, positioning, draping
  - b. Retraction, tissue handling, cutting tissue
  - c. Suctioning techniques, providing surgical site exposure, hemostasis
  - d. Suturing, use of surgical instruments
  - e. Wound management
8. Prepare appropriate preventive and corrective action for recognized surgical hazards.
9. Provide postoperative care of patients in collaboration with other health care providers in the immediate postoperative period and beyond.

**Teaching Methods/Activities**

This course consists of both a didactic and a clinical component. The didactic portion of the course includes assigned readings in the course text(s) and assigned journal articles, online lectures, interactive online learning activities, a quiz and a final exam (~16 hours) for a total of 48 hours of content. Teaching methods include lectures using a variety of media, PowerPoint slides, videos, critical thinking exercises, demonstrations, discussions, return demonstrations (skill practice), audio-visual teaching, independent study, online interactive learning activities, and competency evaluation of technical and manual dexterity skills. During the didactic, students are expected to complete required reading of selected textbooks/articles and scholarly/professional participation in discussions.

This course also consists of a clinical practicum with a requirement of 200 clinical specific hours. Of the total 200 hours, 150 hours must be “hands-on” first assisting directly in the OR with a board-certified surgeon preceptor. The remaining 50 hours may be any phase of perioperative nursing in the expanding RNFA role (pre/intra/post op). Clinical internship may begin after successful completion of all didactic requirements AND once the University of Rochester School of Nursing receives all mandatory paperwork from the student, along with a memorandum of agreement between the University of Rochester and the clinical site, and the clinical site insurance forms

**Evaluation Methods/Learning Outcome**

**Didactic**

Course Requirement	Percent of Total Grade	Alignment with Student Learning Outcome(s)	Due Date
Discussion Board - Role	2.5 %	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	02/06/2021
RNFA Role Quiz	5 %	SLO 1, 2	02/06/2021

Self-Assessment Worksheets • Role • Surgical Hazards • Tissue Retraction • Suture & Ligature	5%	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	02/06/2021 02/13/2021 02/20/2021 02/20/2021
Discussion Board - Perioperative Complications	2.5 %	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,	03/06/2021
Final Examination	35%	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	03/13/2021
Mock Clinical Log	P/F		03/09/2021
Attendance/participation in one day hands on skills/simulation lab. Skills Competency (Lab skill demonstration)	P/F	SLO 3, 5, 7	03/10/2021

**In order to pass the didactic portion of the course and start the clinical portion of the course, you must receive ≥ 80% on each of the above course requirements.**

### **Remediation**

APRN's without experience in perioperative patient care must undergo an assessment by the program instructor. The assessment will include competency in preoperative and postoperative care, aseptic technique, scrubbing, gowning, gloving, creating and maintaining a sterile field, and positioning the patient. If it is determined that the APRN's knowledge or skills are still deficient despite additional opportunities for practice, course faculty will discuss a remediation plan during the on-site intensive on a case-by-case basis.

### **Clinical Evaluation**

Each student will negotiate specific learning objectives, designed to meet the overall AORN approved RNFA course objectives based on the student's needs and interests. Together the board-certified surgeon preceptor and student will identify specific activities in which she/he will participate to meet stated objectives and to schedule various surgical experiences/OR times, etc. with the preceptor. The student and preceptor will utilize Module I-V of the core curriculum to develop, assess, and evaluate the student's competency in intraoperative nursing behaviors.

Learning Objectives will be detailed on the "Learning Objectives/Goals Worksheet", which will be signed by the preceptor before beginning clinical hours, and again upon completion of the objectives.

The student will be evaluated by the board-certified surgeon preceptor at the end of their 200 clinic hour internship utilizing the "Preceptor Evaluation" form. When the student meets with their evaluation surgeon preceptor they should discuss and review performance measures, establish competencies and areas of improvement.

### **Clinical**

<b>Course Requirement</b>	<b>Percent of Total Grade</b>	<b>Alignment with Student Learning Outcome(s)</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Reviewed Learning Objectives/Goals Worksheet	P/F	SLO 7, 8, 9	03/10/2021

Clinical Logs	P/F	SLO 7, 8, 9	05/31/2021, 08/30/2021, 11/1/2021, 03/10/2022
Self-Evaluative Blogs	20%	SLO 7, 8, 9	05/31/2021, 08/30/2021, 11/1/2021, 03/10/2022
Surgical Hazard Activity	5%	SLO 6, 7	05/31/2021
Tissue Retraction Activity	5%	SLO 7	08/30/2021
Suture/Ligature Activity	5%	SLO 8	11/1/2021
Case Study Paper	15%	SLO 7, 8, 9	03/01/2022
Completed Learning Objectives/Goals Worksheet	P/F	SLO 7, 8, 9	03/10/2022
200-Hour Preceptor Evaluation	P/F	SLO 7, 8, 9	03/10/2022

**To successfully pass NSG 488, students must achieve all of the following:**

- A minimum score of  $\geq 80\%$  on each of the course requirements
- A satisfactory rating from preceptor
- Submission of proof of certification as a CNOR or proof of recognition as a certified APRN

The final grade entered is based on School of Nursing grading system. See student handbook (<https://www.son.rochester.edu/assets/pdf/studenthandbook.pdf>)

This course is entirely online with the exception of one in-person clinical simulation day, so the only way course faculty have to contact you is through the email you used to sign up for this course. You should be checking your email at least 3-4 times per week in case course faculty are trying to contact you. This is extremely important. Please feel free to contact course faculty with any questions.

**Grading System**

The student's final numerical grade will be converted to a letter grade based on the following University of Rochester graduate student grading criteria:

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C 70-79 "C" is considered unsatisfactory work for graduate students; see Student Handbook for implications.

E < 70 Failing grade; see Student Handbook for implications.

Grades will be rounded up so that 0.5 (and above) rounds to the next whole number (e.g., a grade of 72.5 will round up to a 73; rounding is only to the tenths; for example, 72.47 does not round up to a 72.5).

The Center for Lifelong Learning wants to make sure you have the time you need to do your best work in this course. It is your responsibility to reach out to course faculty to ask for more time if you need it, and to sign the contract that is sent to you and return it before the end of the semester. Failure to do so will result in zero points posted for any outstanding work and a final grade being calculated and posted.

### **Required Textbook(s)**

1. Seifert, P. C. (2014). *Core curriculum for the RN First Assistant* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). AORN.
2. West, R., Johnson, J. E., Degon, R., & Murphy, W. R. (2010). *The surgical first assistant*. Cine-Med, Inc.
3. Phillips, N., & Hornacky, A. (2020). *Berry and Kohn's operating room technique* (14<sup>th</sup> ed.). Elsevier, Inc.
4. A physical assessment text of choice
5. An anatomy and physiology text of choice

### **Recommended Textbook(s)**

1. AORN. (2020). *Perioperative standards and recommended practices*. AORN.
2. Hichey, J., Ouimette, R., & Venegoni, S. (2000). *Advanced practice nursing: Changing roles and clinical applications* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Lippincott.
3. Harken, A. H., & Moore, E. E. (2018). *Abernathy's surgical secrets*. (7th ed.). Elsevier, Inc.
4. A nursing process/diagnosis text of choice

### **Required Suture Kit**

Suture kit of your choice – for practice

1. Complete Suture Practice Kit for Suture Training, Including Large Silicone Suture Pad with pre-Cut Wounds and Suture Tool kit (25 Pieces). 2nd Generation Model. (Demonstration and Education Use Only) by [ARTAGIA](#)
2. Suture Practice Kit w Suturing Guide E-Book,[Large Case Large Pad & Variety of Sutures w Slots] 4th Gen Pad, Tools Suture Needles by Medical Professionals for Residents Med Dental Vet School Students by [Suture Practice Kit](#)
3. Complete Suture Practice Kit for Medical Students w/ How-To Suture HD Video Course, Suture Training Manual & Carryall Case. All-in-One A Plus Medics kit incl. suture practice pad. (Education Use Only) by [A Plus Medics](#)

### **Course Outline**

- Historical perspectives and the changing role of the RN First Assistant
- Scope of practice- expanded professional nursing role of RNFA including practice credibility, reimbursement and education/certification
- Diagnostic evaluation/work-up
- Anesthesia considerations
- Surgical hazards and other patient complications
- Surgical intervention and assisting techniques
- Infection control with the surgical patient
- Drains and wound care
- Collaborative relationship and communication skills stressed throughout
- Clinical internship- goal setting/clinical log/public policy-RNFA benefits
- Scholarly writing (APA format) including a case study that synthesizes all didactic and clinical components utilizing AORN recommended Registered Nurse First Assistant components including core curriculum, education and practice standards

### **ADA Statement and Holidays**

See *Student Handbook* (<https://www.son.rochester.edu/assets/pdf/studenthandbook.pdf>)

### **Academic Honesty Statement**

Students are responsible for their own work. Students are expected to have read and to practice principles of academic honesty. See *Student Handbook* (<https://www.son.rochester.edu/assets/pdf/studenthandbook.pdf>)  
Student attestation is completed on Blackboard for each course.

### **Professional Behavior/Civility Statement**

The University of Rochester, School of Nursing (SON) seeks to provide an environment for learning and teaching that is respectful of diverse persons and points of view in all classroom, electronic, and clinical settings. Consistent with this goal, it is expected that diverse perspectives and opinions will be expressed and received in a respectful and professional manner. Incivility, intolerance, hate speech, and abusive behaviors are considered professional misconduct and will be acted upon in accordance with the statement in the *Student Handbook*. (<https://www.son.rochester.edu/assets/pdf/studenthandbook.pdf>)

### **TITLE IX/Sexual Harassment Policy**

All members of the University community have the right to learn and work in a safe environment free from all forms of harassment, including harassment on the basis of sex or gender. Students who have been subjected to sexual harassment, including sexual assault, dating/domestic violence or stalking, have the right to receive academic, housing, transportation or other accommodations, to receive counseling and health services and to make a report about such behavior to the University and to law enforcement. For more information please visit [www.rochester.edu/sexualmisconduct](http://www.rochester.edu/sexualmisconduct).

### **HIPAA Compliance**

Students are to abide by the University of Rochester HIPAA Compliance Guidelines, found on the SON website (<http://son.rochester.edu/r/HIPAA-Video>).