

**Common Course Outline**  
**NURN 110**  
**Introduction to Pharmacology**  
**2 Credits**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**NURN 110 – 2 credits – Introduction to Pharmacology** provides instruction in basic pharmacology and medication administration skills needed for safe and effective medication administration. Content includes all components of medication preparation and administration including the essential medication knowledge needed to adequately assess and evaluate medication effects in the patient across the lifespan.

**2 Credits**

**Prerequisites:** Admission to Practical Nursing Program; MATH 082; ACLT 052 or ACLT 053.

**Co-requisites:** NURN 103.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. discuss legal and ethical standards of medication administration in nursing practice;
2. identify drug classifications and action of selected medications;
3. describe factors that may affect the action of selected medications;
4. list commonly used approved abbreviations;
5. identify the components of a medication order;
6. identify medication side effects, adverse reactions, and nursing implications;
7. discuss the components of safe administration of oral, enteral and parenteral medications;
8. identify the physiological, psychological, cultural, developmental and spiritual factors that may influence a patient's compliance to a medication regimen;
9. create a plan of care related to selected medications, to assist patients to attain, maintain and/or retain an optimal level of wellness; and
10. demonstrate competency in the dosage exam by scoring a minimum 90%.

**Major Topics**

- I. Medication standards and legislation
- II. Medication nomenclature/classification
- III. Medication action
- IV. Factors influencing medication action
- V. Approved abbreviations
- VI. Medication orders
- VII. Systems of weight and measure
- VIII. Approximate dose equivalence

- IX. Medication dose calculations
- X. Safe medication administration
- XI. Factors influencing medication compliance
- XII. Legal aspects of administering medications
- XIII. Nursing process and elected medication categories

### **Course Requirements**

An overall grade of C (75.00%) or higher is required for satisfactory completion of the course. Grading procedures will be determined by the course faculty but will include the following:

#### **Grading/Exams:**

- Minimum of three theory exams
- The exam average must equal 75.00% or higher to pass the course.
- Minimum of three quizzes

#### **Written Assignments:**

- The student will have a minimum of two homework assignments.
- Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

#### **Dosage Requirement:**

To successfully pass the course, students must pass a dosage examination at the completion of the course. Students must achieve a minimum of 90% and are permitted 5 attempts at the exam. The grade is not recorded as a numerical grade but as a pass/fail. If the student is unsuccessful at the dosage exam, they will receive a grade of "F" for the course.