

**Common Course Outline**  
**PAST 213**  
**Diagnostic Process**  
**4 Credits**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

Diagnostic Process

Introduces the diagnostic process focusing on the proper methods of obtaining, recording, and presenting patient histories and physical examinations. Emphasizes interpersonal communication skills. Presents a system-by-system approach to performing the physical exam, an overview of the common symptoms and physical findings for each system, and a review of anatomy pathophysiology. Includes each week two hours history taking, four hours physical examination (two hours lecture and two hours lab).

**Overall Course Objectives**

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

- A. Define and explain the diagnostic process;
- B. Conduct a patient interview;
- C. Demonstrate sound communication skills;
- D. Demonstrated proficiency in performance of the complete physical examination;
- E. Identify and explain the significance of common abnormal physical findings;
- F. Educate the patient regarding self-examination for screening of breast and testicular masses;
- G. Accurately and appropriately document subjective and objective data in the patient record; and
- H. Present history and physical findings.

**Major Topics**

- A. Diagnostic Process
  - 1. Data Collection
  - 2. Date recording
  - 3. Assessment and plan
- B. Medical Interviewing
  - 1. Components of the complete history
    - a. Identifying data
    - b. Chief complaint
    - c. History of the present illness
    - d. Past medical history
    - e. Family Health
    - f. Psychosocial History
    - g. Systems review
  - 2. Conducting an interview
    - a. setting
    - b. patient comfort
    - c. interviewing skills
  - 3. Clinician-patient relationship
    - a. Trust/confidence
    - b. Style

- C. Physical Assessment
1. Overview of the physical exam
  2. Vital signs
  3. Examination of the Integument
  4. Examination of the Head and Neck
  5. Examination of the thorax
  6. Cardiac examination
  7. Examination of the abdomen
  8. Musculoskeletal evaluation
  9. Peripheral vascular exam
  10. Neurological exam
    - a. cranial nerve assessment
    - b. locomotor assessment
  11. Examination of the newborn
  12. The well-child examination
  13. Examination of the breasts and genitalia
  14. Instructing patients in self-examination
  15. The prenatal exam

### **Course Requirements**

Methods of Evaluation:

- A. Written examination
- B. Evaluation of data base and progress note documentation
- C. Practical Examination
- D. Videotaping and critique of interview technique

### **Other Course Information**

Methods of Instruction:

- A. Lecture and Demonstration
- B. Use of surrogate patients for electing a history and performing physical exam
- C. Video Tapes - Barbara Bates Physical Exam Series
- D. Role playing