
CONTINUING EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2023

SAN01: Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – 48 hours, 16 weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Cathy Carter-Snell, PhD RN, SANE-A DF-AFN

PHONE: TBD

EMAIL: TBD

DELIVERY MODE(S):

Online, paced learners must have access to a computer with a good internet connection.

PREREQUISITE/COREQUISITE:

Learner must be a registered nurse (RN). Registered midwife or physician. Proof of registration is required.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:

There are no required texts for this course. All required readings are available within the course.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for nurses who choose to specialize in sexual assault forensic nursing. Comprehensive specialized nursing care is addressed including trauma informed care supported with evidence informed strategies for support, evaluation, and intervention with victims of recent sexual assault. Learners will learn interview and examination strategies, injury identification, evidence collection, treatment

priorities, and how to support resilience and initial recovery. Learners will also understand legal and ethical issues related to sexual assault and understand issues related to documentation, reporting, legal reports and testimony. Key areas of course content are shown in the table below.

The content has been designed to meet the theory education requirements for the SANE-A (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner of Adults/Adolescents) exams from the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN). Nurses can work as examiners without the certification in some areas, but if they wish to certify after becoming clinically competent, they must have completed a theory course that meets the IAFN education requirements for SANE-A. The course also includes some pediatric content included in the course to address the needs of rural/northern communities without specialized teams.

Although this is designed primarily in the Canadian context, some American and international legislation is discussed. The principles of the exam and evidence collection are relatively universal although specifics like the equipment used, and number of swabs may differ by jurisdictions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To gain an understanding of the impact of sexual assault from a physical, psychological, and legal perspective.
2. To develop the skills required to appropriately interview, examine and collect evidence from victims of recent sexual assault.
3. To gain the skills required to improve care for sexual assault victims through appropriate, ethical, trauma-informed and evidence-based practice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Describe the risk factors for sexual assault.
2. Discuss the roles of professionals involved in supporting victims of sexual assault and areas for collaboration, including trauma informed care.
3. Describe physical and psychological consequences of sexual assault for the victim and their family and the role of the SANE in reducing secondary traumatization.
4. Describe indicators of long-term consequences such as stress-related disorders.
5. Identify ethical issues in caring for sexual assault victims.
6. Describe methods to evaluate and improve care for sexual assault victims.

7. Identify key considerations and components in a non-forensic and a forensic sexual assault examination according to standardized guidelines.
8. Identify injuries and discuss their implications in sexual assault.
9. Discuss considerations for special populations such as male victims, same-sex victims, disabled and elderly.
10. Describe techniques for collection and storage of evidence according to forensic standards.
11. Discuss issues related to consent, history taking and examination of sexual assault victims.
12. Describe cultural and socioeconomic factors which may impact an evaluation and treatment of victims.
13. Describe appropriate interventions for pregnancy and infection prophylaxis.
14. Identify potential methods to support victims in the acute phase after sexual assault including psychological first aid.
15. Differentiate burnout, compassion fatigue, and secondary traumatic stress including key considerations in self-care to reduce risks.
16. Discuss differences in fact vs. expert witness testimony related specifically to the sexual assault examiner.

TIMELINES & EVALUATIONS:

Assessments		
Type of Assessment	Due Date	Value
Case Studies Case A Case B	TBD	15% 15%
Quizzes Quiz A – section 1,2 Quiz B – section 3,4 Quiz C – section 5,6 Quiz D- section 7,8	TBD	10% 10% 10% 10%
Discussion Board Discussion A Discussion B Discussion C	TBD	10% 10% 10%

Learners must receive a minimum overall grade of 80% to pass.

Class Participation

Learners are expected to attend any discussion board or other online activities as indicated above. You do not have to be online at the same time – you can post your comments and then return another time within the two weeks the discussion is open to post any further comments.

Assignments

Case studies and discussions should be submitted before the due date in the course outline.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE CONTENT:

Module	Topic/Assignments
1	Sexual Assault Concepts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myths, risks, and realities & trauma informed care • Drug facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) • Victim consequences: physical/psychological, terminology • Perpetrator issues and dynamics • Professional consequences and impact • Community impact of sexual assault
2	Legal and Professional Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual assault legislation, age of consent, mandatory reporting • Consent to treatment and confidentiality • Professional responses to sexual assault: SANE role, team members, rural
3	Anatomy, Physiology & Developmental Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anatomy & physiology- female, male, developmental changes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury mechanisms, types and risks for body injury • Genitorectal injuries and injury risks • Non-assault variations
4	<p>Sexual Assault Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual assault evidence, principles and chain of custody • Toxicology, pharmacology, DFSA, toxidromes and sampling • Adjuncts to visualization: ALS, dyes, colposcopy, balloon visualization • Forensic photography • Documentation & traumagrams
5	<p>Sexual Assault Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History and interviewing: medical forensic history, sexual assault history • Sexual assault examination- techniques, body examination • Genitorectal examination • Age considerations • Special populations: e.g., cultural, disabled, sexual minorities, inmates, suspect vs victim, war and disaster, trafficking
6	<p>Interventions & Follow-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infectious diseases: risks, characteristics, immunization/testing • HIV considerations: risks, seroconversion, post-exposure prophylaxis • Pregnancy prevention & the pregnant victim • Discharge & follow-up considerations: suicide, safety, follow up
7	<p>Professional Issues & Ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics & ethical decision-making models • Evidence-informed decision making & quality of evidence • Quality assurance, peer review & program evaluation
8	<p>Criminal Justice System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal systems: levels of court, judge/jury, court protocols • Medicolegal & expert reports • Expert qualification and witness testimony • Witness testimony – fact, expert

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Learners are expected to complete all assigned readings and course content within the timeframe of the course. Case studies are due on the date scheduled in the course outline. Case studies will **not** be accepted past the scheduled due date. Discussions will **not** be available after the specified due date.

Granting of a due date extension is at the discretion of the instructor. Only learners with serious medical or domestic afflictions may request a due date extension, whereby documentation from a physician or counselor is required. Requests for an extension must be submitted in writing to the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the original assignment due date including rationale for request and anticipated submission date. The instructor will respond with a final decision to accept or deny the request.

STATEMENT ON PLAIGERISM:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Polytechnic Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities under the section on Academic Misconduct <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/>

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.