Why are we here and what are we all about?

The TNS course is a standardized program facilitated by TNS Course Coordinators (TNSCCs) at Trauma Centers approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as TNS course sites. [The Wounded Man by Ambroise Paré (1510-1590)]

Goal: To increase the competency of nurses caring for acutely injured patients during the emergent phase of management emphasizing the pursuit of understanding and the dynamics of learning, which expands our ability to comprehend a broad range of perspectives, experiences, and approaches to care.

TNS education fosters professional knowledge, skills, and attitudes (KSAs) by promoting a growth mindset and effective coping strategies to deal with change and ambiguity, encouraging accountability and team interdependency, and developing a structure for critical reasoning, moral judgment, and ethical behavior.

We plan to expand your knowledge from fascination to accurate anticipation, evaluation, and creativity! This requires thorough a knowledge of A&P, social determinants of health, pathophysiology, evidence-based care, excellent psychomotor skills, and characterization of values that reflect professional nursing practice.

General course objectives

Upon completion, successful participants will do the following within their scope of practice and to a degree of excellence defined by the program:

- Assess and record data about the health status of patients sustaining trauma.
- Analyze data to correctly formulate nursing priorities.
- Implement evidence-based best practice nursing care.
- Evaluate the results of nursing and medical interventions through ongoing clinical monitoring.
- Modify the nursing care plan per patient needs.
- Advocate for person-centered, culturally appropriate care without prejudice or bias to address social-emotional as well as physical needs of all patients.

"Bottom Line"

A TNS will develop a depth and breadth of competency that allows them to perform thorough assessments, recognize S&S of injury and alterations from health, anticipate problems, and perform appropriate, timely interventions within their scope of practice to achieve maximal patient outcomes.

Course Academic Calendar

The schedule logically sequences learning and includes required program elements. It is subject to change based on circumstances. Please be tolerant of alterations.
Due to the diversity of student locations, travel, and family/work situations, class starts virtually via ZOOM and transitions to face-to-face (F2F) classes at NCH in late October. Class hours: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Lunch breaks are usually 60 minutes starting at noon.

Keys for successful completion

It is **ESSENTIAL** that each student recognizes the intensity of the course and that **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION and study time** (read...work) on your part is necessary to be successful.

The course is not easy, but the keys to success are in your hands! It covers greater depth and breadth of content and requires higher sustained engagement and processing skills than other standard "Life-Support" classes, but the rewards of increased knowledge that can be applied in practice are huge and highly valued by course graduates.

You will be presented with current, and evolving science based on new literature and research in a way that aligns with contemporary adult learning strategies and fosters **21st century skills**: Critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and innovation.

This requires **UN**learning and **RE**learning some old paradigms and that can be difficult (and fun) to do.

The good news…

- *If you knew it already, you wouldn't need to be here!*
- *Many thousands of nurses have taken the course and passed successfully! You can too!*
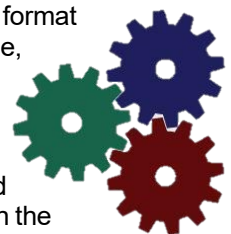
Curriculum design; course components

The TNS Education Program content and curriculum is developed and maintained by the TNSCC Committee and approved by IDPH. Whenever possible, curriculum design meets the operational needs of our stakeholders and communities of interest, nationally accepted standards, and the educational needs of the students.

Modules - Module outlines are updated frequently to include current science so class content may reflect emerging concepts not yet seen in all practice settings. Modules address discrete topics, but have many interdependencies. They include core A&P, fluids & electrolytes, acid-base imbalances, shock, evidence-based approaches to assessment and management, and system-specific injuries in patients of all ages.
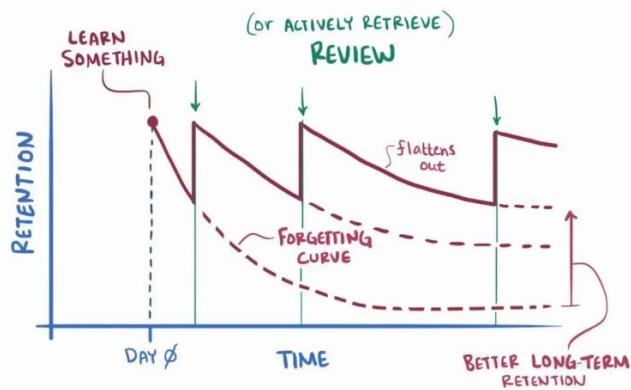
Format - The standardized module format includes objectives, a content outline, references, and study questions.

Objectives form the basis for class content and exam questions. They are written in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains of learning depending on the behaviors to be achieved. Each module cover page lists the specific objectives for that topic.

Content outline: Guest faculty are provided with a copy of the module associated with their topic(s); but they may not follow the outlines as written and may present content in their own style or share even newer information. Students are responsible for knowing the content in the module outlines. Please read each one thoroughly.

Study questions: Provide checks for understanding at the end of each module. Spaced repetition reinforces key concepts and flattens the forgetting curve.

https://www.osmosis.org/learn/Spaced_repetition

Study questions are considered "homework" but are not turned in. Answers may be reviewed in class or the TNSCCs may facilitate your self-discovery of answers that are unclear to you.

Class activities – We use multiple teaching methods that may include interactive lectures, Socratic questioning, +1 discussion, use of Zoom chat and slide annotation tools, polling questions, case studies, concept maps, and other student-centered activities designed to scaffold your learning. They illustrate and amplify the information presented in the modules and provide a whole learner approach that allows for differentiated instruction.

While class schedules and methods of delivery vary across TNS sites, the TNSCCs shall ensure all material presented aligns and conforms with the current TNS curriculum.

Electronic device | Internet requirements for ZOOM classes:

- You must have access to a reliable electronic device with a camera and audio capabilities (do not use a cell phone unless needed for a camera as a secondary device) plus a reliable high speed internet connection that will allow you to log in to a Zoom meeting.

  Before class: **Familiarize yourself and be able to use major Zoom functions/tools** including mute/unmute; chat, annotation, (symbols and text), and response symbols, such as raising your virtual hand to speak. See Zoom tutorial. The TNSCC will send Zoom access links via e-mail.

- Know which search engines work best for full access for your device and internet plan. Have a working hot spot or Wi-Fi that can be accessed as backup. Your computer must have continuous power throughout the class (battery or plugged in).

  Faculty must clearly see each participant's full face on screen (video on) throughout the class to ensure engagement and to pick up on visual non-verbal communication cues.

  Your video window must not be blacked out unless on a scheduled break. Do not use distracting

backgrounds and minimize disruptions in your learning environment. Limit on camera activities to behaviors that would be appropriate in a F2F classroom. Breaks are given every 60-90 min to address personal issues.

- **Audio settings**: Check sound settings prior to class. Please remain on mute unless called upon to speak but we need to hear you when speaking! We will frequently call on individuals to ask and answer questions and participate in class discussions.

- **Need access to a printer:** The majority of handouts and all quizzes will be distributed electronically. We encourage you to print copies of module outlines for note taking during class.

Labs: Help to apply theory into practice. Psychomotor objectives are written at the precision level for patient assessment. An assessment practice lab is held in advance of the final psychomotor (practical) exam.

Skill sheets: List essential steps and critical errors for key procedures in a checklist format. The Patient Assessment sheet is used as a template for the psychomotor exam.

Assessments of learning

Pre & Post-test

- In a F2F environment, a practice test may be given that mirrors the blueprint of the State exam using retired questions. It is given to assess each student's learning needs and progress. A passing score on the post-class attempt has high predictive value on how a candidate will score on the final cognitive exam.

- Each student is given their results by topic to identify areas of strengths and opportunities, but they cannot review the exam against their answers, take notes about or image exam questions.

Quizzes

- Quizzes measure achievement of cognitive objectives and identify ongoing learning needs. TNSCCs create quizzes for their site and the number and nature of assessments varies.

- The NCH site provides take home quizzes that are to be completed independently. All are composed of multiple-choice questions to be answered on a paper scannable answer sheet provided by the Program. Quizzes are designed to facilitate learning and require dedicated effort to accurately retrieve and reinforce information from the previous weeks' material. They should be used as study guides for the final exams.

- Quiz answer sheets shall be returned in person or via US mail to Pamela Ross at NCH by the due date listed in the academic calendar. They will be scored, scanned, and returned so you can see your results.

- Students must score a minimum quiz average of 80% or higher to take the State final exams. Quizzes that are not submitted and received in time for grading prior to the final exams will receive a score of 0%.

A candidate who has successfully completed course requirements, paid all fees, and otherwise meets all IDPH requirements for licensure shall be eligible to take the summative cognitive and psychomotor assessments (exams) required for State TNS licensure.

Testing window: A candidate shall have 12 months from the end of their TNS education program to successfully achieve passing scores on both TNS summative assessments in compliance with testing Policies and Procedures.

EXAM FEE: $25. Failure to appear for any licensure examination on the scheduled date, at the time and place specified, may result in forfeiture of the examination fee.

Final Psychomotor (Practical) Exam

- The psychomotor exam requires a candidate to evaluate and stabilize a simulated critically injured trauma patient in compliance with practice standards and testing criteria established by the TNSCCs and approved by IDPH. All sites use standard scenarios and evaluation forms.

- **Timing and location**: The exam is usually conducted in a F2F environment at the TNS site hospital before the final cognitive exam, but may be done virtually under emergency circumstances. Virtual testing policies are available from the TNSCC.

- **Passing:** Candidates must independently perform all critical steps with correct technique, sequencing, and timing with a minimum score of 80% and no critical errors They must find one immediate life-threat and three additional injuries and verbalize appropriate resuscitative interventions as described in the Assessment module within 10-15 minutes.

- **Re-test Policy:** A candidate shall be given two attempts to successfully complete the psychomotor exam. Candidates are informed if they passed or failed each attempt. If a retest is authorized, it is allowed on the day of the 1st failed attempt.

- **Elimination of bias**: Exam preceptors are qualified nurses with trauma expertise. Candidates shall not test with preceptors from their own institutions if possible. The TNSCC may retest a candidate who fails the first time to ensure fair and equitable testing.

State Cognitive (written) Final Exam

The cognitive exam is created, validated, scheduled, administered, scored, and reviewed for item performance in compliance with TNS Policies and Procedures. All sites conform to TNS examination guidelines.

The cognitive exam measures achievement of key course objectives and is based on a blueprint and table of specifications created by the TNSCCs in compliance with program Policies and Procedures. A student version of the blueprint is provided in advance as a study tool.

The exam consists of 150 multiple choice items with one correct answer. Keyed answers are cited to the modules.

Candidates must demonstrate higher level problem solving and decision-making skills that mirrors other high-stakes summative exams. Instructions and an academic honor code are printed on the cover.

- **Timing, Location**: The exam must be given in a F2F precepted environment and is generally held on the last day of class at the TNS site in compliance with state-wide testing guidelines unless alternate arrangements are made in advance.

  Candidates are given 2.5 hours to complete the test unless an ADA accommodation for additional time has been granted in advance.

- **Passing Score**: **80%** | Exam results are communicated to the candidate after scoring. Exams are not returned to the student for review after grading.

- **Re-test policy:** Students may attempt the cognitive exam a total of 3 times within their testing window. Candidates for retest must meet the same requirements and standards as those taking the exam on the first attempt. They may not retest on the same day as a failed attempt. Retest timing must allow for remediation. Applicants must reapply to the TNSCC and pay the exam fee for each attempt.

TNS LICENSURE

- After successful completion of summative testing, you will be given an **IDPH Personal History (child support) Statement** that must be fully and legibly completed, signed, and returned to the TNSCC. This form is forwarded to IDPH as part of the licensure recommendation paperwork.

- IDPH will send a **link and a PIN # for online payment of the licensure fee** to the email address noted on the Personal History statement.
  TNS Licensure fee: $50.

- After receipt of the fee, IDPH will mail the TNS license to the address indicated on the Personal History statement.

EVALUATIONS

Fair, objective evaluations help improve the program by providing feedback relative to the course and faculty. All comments remain anonymous unless you chose to identify yourself and we appreciate your input!.

GENERAL POLICIES

Equal opportunity: The TNS Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, protected veteran status, or other protected classes under the law (including Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 published under the United States Code at 20 U.S.C. §1681-§1688) as long as the individual is otherwise qualified to perform all the essential functions of a TNS's scope of practice and meets eligibility requirements for TNS licensure.

Academic honesty

Students shall not engage in, assist in, nor condone lying, cheating, or falsification of documents pursuant to their TNS education. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be suspended from the program pending an investigation. If allegations are sustained, the student will be dismissed from the program.

ADA Accommodations

Students are expected to demonstrate the physical, mental and emotional ability to perform all essential functions of a TNS during the course.

Only individuals with diagnosed disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act who, with or without reasonable accommodations, meet the eligibility requirements for TNS licensure and practice are eligible for accommodations. See: https://www.eeoc.gov/disability-discrimination

Requesting an accommodation

Contact the TNSCC and request the TNS **ADA Accommodations policy and procedure.**

Requested accommodations must be appropriate for the diagnosed disability and must not fundamentally alter the Program's course of instruction, standards, or ability to assess a student's ability to perform the essential job functions of a TNS or pose an undue hardship for the educational facility.

Each student's circumstances are unique and require a case-by-case approach. The TNSCC determines if the requested accommodations are reasonable for their site and may or may not be granted.

No grades will be adjusted retroactively after the need for accommodation is revealed, requested, and approved.

Attendance: Class attendance is strongly encouraged to optimize learning but is not mandatory. Absences are reflected in a reduced number of CEUs awarded.

Attire: Dress casually in good taste. You may be asked to stand during virtual classes, so make sure you are wearing appropriate clothing below your chest!

Auditing: Auditing classes is allowed for those who hold a current TNS or EMS license and is awarded IDPH CEU credit on an hr/hr basis if the TNS site requested an EMS-related site code. Nurses may not audit and then take the Challenge Examinations.

CEUs: Awarded based on each TNS site's schedule, CE affiliation processes, and participant's attendance.

Class citizenship: Please be on time. Entering late or coming in and out of the Zoom meeting compromises people's engagement and focus. If you need to leave class temporarily, do NOT exit the Zoom room. Turn video off to leave and back on when you return. Minimize on-screen distractions, mute your mic when not speaking, and participate actively in activities. HAVE FUN!

Electronic devices & non-class use: Students are asked to refrain from using electronic devices for **non-TNS** activities while class is in session. Silence cell phones or other devices and defer access until breaks unless an emergency exists. If an emergency requires an immediate response, please turn off your video or exit the F2F classroom to respond/ use the device.

Audio recordings of any portion of the class may be made only with the instructor's prior approval.

All slides are the intellectual property of the author. Slides are not distributed to prevent copyright and photo release infringements **and students may not take screen shots or image a slide without prior permission**.

Food & beverage: You may drink beverages while on camera, but please eat during scheduled breaks. We will comply with current NCH guidelines regarding food in classrooms when on campus.

PPE: Students are asked to comply with NCH guidelines during F2F instruction. Information will be sent in advance if PPE is required.

Pins: The TNS pin is a distinctive symbol of achievement. Pins may be purchased based on current vendor pricing after passing the state exams. Information is available from the TNSCC.

Smoking: Use of all tobacco products is prohibited on the NCH campus. Students may only smoke, vape, or use tobacco products inside their own vehicles. Violation of this policy constitutes grounds for dismissal from the program.

Tuition and fees: $325.00: Standard at all sites. Covers course materials, faculty, labs, practical exam, and first attempt on the state cognitive exam.

Make checks payable to Northwest Community Hospital. (Note on check: TNS tuition (last name) Account #1201101532. If payment is not received or a payment plan confirmed prior to the first day of class, the applicant's seat may be given to the next person on a waiting list.

Mail payment to: Northwest Community Hospital; EMS Department; Attn: Connie Mattera │ 800 W. Central Rd.; Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

Contact Pamela Ross (pross@nch.org} or (847) 618-4482 to arrange a payment plan.

TNSCC contact information:

Please reach out any time if you have questions, comments, or concerns. We're here to make your TNS course experience empowering and rewarding!

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