The most valuable texts of 2023

**ADULT PRIMARY CARE**

Chosen by Leslie Neal-Boylan, PhD, CRNP, CRRN
Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic

First-place winner: Women’s Health in Primary Care: An Integrated Approach

This book is comprehensive and practical—I can see myself using it frequently in my own internal medicine clinical practice. Its integrated approach makes the information readily accessible and immediately applicable. I especially liked the “Clinical Survival Tips” and the “Safety Alert” boxes. Additionally, the “Not to Be Missed” boxes cleverly draw attention to issues that might go overlooked, such as awareness of state abortion laws and the long-term health effects of feminizing hormone therapy.

Second place: Clinical Simulations in Nursing Education: Advanced Concepts, Trends, and Opportunities

Technology is progressing incredibly fast. This book provides a framework for nurse educators and simulation instructors to keep in step with advances in technology and optimally utilize simulation in nursing education. Well referenced and researched, it incorporates the most current and relevant literature on nursing simulation. It goes beyond clinical care to discuss leadership skills for nurse educators, incorporating diversity concepts into simulation, using gaming and holograms in nursing education, and more. The book also includes a chapter on the use of simulation to prepare students for the Next Generation NCLEX.

Third place: Practice Guidelines for Family Nurse Practitioners

As a busy FNP, I need information at my fingertips. This book is streamlined, easy to carry, and includes key information in an easy-to-find format. The systems-based approach is very helpful, as are the tables, “Practice Pearls,” diagrams, and algorithms. I think students and new NPs will find this book especially helpful.

**ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING**

Chosen by Nadine M. Aktan, PhD, FNP-BC
Professor and assistant dean, Advanced Nursing Practice Division, Rutgers University School of Nursing

First-place winner: Practice Guidelines for Family Nurse Practitioners

This book is useful for the clinical practice setting. Its small size and soft cover make it easy to carry. I liked how it is organized by conditions according to system. Content is presented across the lifespan, so the reader doesn’t need to purchase multiple references on caring for patients in different age groups. The tables on pharmacologic management of common primary care conditions are comprehensive and reader friendly, and “Practice Pearls,” photos, questionnaires, and electrocardiograms supplement the content and provide greater depth and clarity. Alert boxes on “not-to-be-missed” content, nonurgent referrals, and urgent referrals all present critical information.

Second place: Applied Pathophysiology for the Advanced Practice Nurse

This book stands out because of its clear linkage of pathophysiology concepts to clinical practice. It is valuable for both students and novice clinicians. For example, the tables on diagnostic tests and their purposes and interpretation help support diagnostic reasoning. Also included are helpful digital resources for students and instructors.

Third place: Primary Care: The Art and Science of Advanced Practice Nursing—An Interprofessional Approach

An emphasis on learning, applying, and assessing knowledge is demonstrated throughout this text. It covers care considerations across the lifespan and includes treatment flowcharts that reinforce current, evidence-based standards of care. Tables on commonly prescribed drugs promote mastery of pharmacologic management. Davis Edge, the online learning platform that accompanies the text, offers significant value. This resource promotes critical thinking and clinical reasoning and prepares students to succeed on course and certification examinations. After taking practice tests, students receive feedback reports that guide them toward areas where additional review is needed.
First-place winner: Wong's Nursing Care of Infants and Children

Wong's Nursing Care of Infants and Children is a broad resource for undergraduate students on providing high-quality nursing care across all stages of child development. The book adopts a family-centered approach, emphasizing the role of the family in children's health and illness. Organized by age groups and body systems, it covers child health assessment, promotion, and health conditions—both common and less common. The authors incorporate the latest research and guidelines, highlighting cultural competence and evidence-based practice. Helpful boxes, such as “Nursing Tips,” “Translating Evidence into Practice,” “Community Considerations,” and “Drug Alerts” enhance the text. Timely content is included—for example, recommendations for pediatric care based on Healthy People 2030, the latest evidence on COVID-19 in children, updated information on immunization, and coverage of mental health issues in school-age children. Next Generation NCLEX questions foster critical thinking and clinical reasoning through progressive case studies, while the Quizzing section includes NCLEX-style questions. The textbook and online platform (Davis Advantage) incorporate visually appealing approaches that help students understand through an engaging format that includes bullet points, flowcharts, diagrams, and tables. The textbook and online platform work together to deliver key content.

Second place: Davis Advantage for Pediatric Nursing: Critical Components of Nursing Care

Davis Advantage for Pediatric Nursing offers a comprehensive program for students. The textbook makes essential pediatric nursing content easy to understand through an engaging format that includes bullet points, flowcharts, diagrams, and tables. This visually appealing approach enhances student comprehension. The online learning platform, Davis Advantage, incorporates assessments and dynamic activities. Its Clinical Judgment component promotes critical thinking and clinical reasoning through progressive case studies, while the Quizzing section includes NCLEX-style questions. The textbook and online platform work together to deliver key content.

Third place: Pediatric Primary Care: Practice Guidelines for Nurses
By Beth Richardson. 5th edition. Burlington, MA, Jones and Bartlett Learning.

Pediatric Primary Care is a user-friendly guide to managing well-child visits and treating childhood illnesses in primary care settings. This valuable resource is an excellent professional reference and study guide that will benefit NPs, pediatric nurses, and nursing students. Written in an outline format, the content is structured to facilitate easy access to information, starting with age-specific guidance for well-child visits—including expected growth and development milestones. It then outlines system-specific conditions and recommended diagnostic procedures, treatment protocols, potential complications, and guidance for educating patients and their families on each condition. The book also includes templates for collecting initial patient histories and recording updated information.

First-place winner: Adverse Childhood Experiences: The Neuroscience of Trauma, Resilience and Healing throughout the Life Course

Written by a neuroscience nurse specialist, this book provides an excellent review and synthesis of current evidence on the neurobiological and other health risks faced by survivors of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and how to help them heal. Importantly, it promotes effective primary prevention strategies to detect and mitigate risk factors, as well as secondary prevention efforts that can reduce or prevent adverse outcomes following trauma exposure and support neuroprotection and optimal brain function. The author includes evidence-based discussions on intergenerational and other cycles of trauma; individual, family/caregiver, and community risk factors that can make children vulnerable to maltreatment; and how disparities, systemic racism, and structural inequities influence the health of individuals and communities. Throughout the book, she describes programs to prevent and mitigate the effects of abuse and other ACEs.

Second place: Social and Behavioral Foundations of Public Health

This textbook effectively utilizes social and behavioral approaches to provide a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and forward-looking agenda for addressing public health needs in the context of our rapidly changing world. Since the previous edition of this book was published, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, social media, and technological breakthroughs dramatically changed how individuals interact at local and global levels. Demographic, environmental, and social and cultural changes and related issues (such as migration and displacement of refugees, political polarization, vaccine refusal, and the tendency of conspiracy theories to emerge in times of crisis) have created unique and complex challenges to public health practice. These unprecedented challenges require new approaches to public health. While more traditional infection control and environmental protections remain vitally important, this book describes a “new public health” paradigm that focuses on social conditions that undermine health and behavioral patterns that...
put people at risk for illness and injury. Case studies are presented to support learning in each chapter.

**Third place: Community/Public Health Nursing: Promoting the Health of Populations**


This book has an “upstream” focus on creating healthier environments through community organizing, participation in policy setting, and engagement in the legislative process. It has a provocative nature that helps to raise consciousness regarding social equity and social justice. As a retired nurse educator, I appreciated how the book uses a well-organized and visually pleasing format to present a standardized set of features within each chapter, such as learning objectives, key terms, and chapter outlines. Other chapter features include theoretical frameworks, boxes highlighting Healthy People 2030 goals and objectives, case studies and clinical examples, research highlights, learning exercises, and photos that depict health care in a variety of settings with different population groups. The instructor materials include PowerPoint slides, a massive test bank, lesson plans, and Next Generation NCLEX-style case studies. Student resources include multiple-choice review questions with correct answer rationales.

**CONSUMER HEALTH**

Chosen by Theresa Brown, PhD, RN
Author and contributor to the *New York Times* and CNN.com

**First-place winner: Androgen Deprivation Therapy: An Essential Guide for Prostate Cancer Patients and Their Loved Ones**


This book is clear, warm, and encouraging. It begins by addressing the silence that usually surrounds the side effects of androgen deprivation therapy; discusses the different drugs available for treatment; and continues by exploring the importance of getting enough sleep, exercising, and eating well. And it compassionately tackles harder issues, like sexual dysfunction and gynecomastia. This is the third edition of the book, and it feels up to date and thorough without being overwhelming. Men with prostate cancer and their partners will benefit from reading this honest book.

**Second place: Getting Unstuck from PTSD: Using Cognitive Processing Therapy to Guide Your Recovery**


*Getting Unstuck from PTSD* is a workbook intended to help posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) sufferers find relief from their traumatic memories and the emotional sequelae of experiencing trauma. Many kinds of trauma are discussed, from sexual assault to being in combat to working in the medical field, and the diversity of accounts will make all trauma survivors feel seen and included. The book is filled with writing exercises and explanations, as well as stories from real people with PTSD. The treatment modality it promotes—cognitive processing therapy—was developed by the lead author, Patricia A. Resick, and has been well validated as effective. For patients with PTSD who are willing to do the hard work of recovery on their own, and especially those who can’t afford individual therapy, this book offers real help. The exercises are clear and easy to understand, if emotionally difficult. The authors remain encouraging throughout, as if to say to readers, “You can do this.”

**Third place: Adverse Childhood Experiences: The Neuroscience of Trauma, Resilience and Healing Throughout the Life Course**


“A diversity is not destiny,” this book announces at the very start, giving readers a rallying cry for understanding that although ACEs have profound negative effects on individuals, our pasts do not have to determine our futures. Brewer-Smyth leaves no stone unturned in this thorough book about childhood traumas. She shows readers how these formative experiences affect victims’ brains, leading to emotional dysregulation and chronic health issues. But the book also promotes psychotherapy, “self-care,” being out in nature, and developing emotional intelligence as means for patients to recover and stay healthy, despite adversities faced as children. Brewer-Smyth maintains a hopeful, forward-looking attitude that will surely comfort readers of all stripes, assuring them that hope is an appropriate response to childhood trauma.

**CREATIVE WORKS**

Chosen by Hui-wen Sato, MPH, MSN, RN, CCRN
Pediatric ICU nurse, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

**First-place winner: Adverse Childhood Experiences: The Neuroscience of Trauma, Resilience and Healing Throughout the Life Course**


This book provides a comprehensive, well-researched description of the various forms of trauma that children can experience and the broad array of interventions that both health care professionals and nonprofessionals can use to help children work through and overcome their traumas. The author offers this information in language that is accessible to all readers, and the content is incredibly relevant to the issues of our present time. Moreover, the author discusses her own background with vulnerability and honesty, establishing herself as someone who understands the world of ACEs both personally and professionally. While the book is sobering, it is also hopeful and actionable—and is thus empowering to anyone looking to help young people deal with trauma.
Second place: Murder on the Widow’s Walk
By Christine Knapp. Los Gatos, CA, Gemma Halliday Publishing.

Murder on the Widow’s Walk is an engrossing tale. The main character, a nurse midwife, is suddenly caught up in a local murder mystery. The mystery itself is fun for the reader, but beyond that, the book also highlights the important and often intimate work nurse midwives do in caring for the members of their communities. The book shows how nurse midwives are integral to the health care system, build trusted relationships with their patients, and are also very human, navigating their own struggles even as they care for others professionally.

CRITICAL CARE—EMERGENCY NURSING

Second place: Priorities in Critical Care Nursing

All critical care nurses and nursing units should have access to this book. Poignant, well written, and aesthetically pleasing, it is updated to reflect exactly what bedside critical care (or intermediate care) nurses need to support optimal patient care and safety, as well as nurse self-care. The focus on patient care priorities—addressing both technology and patients’ changing psychosocial needs—is timely and impactful. The authors highlight relevant evidence-based practices and quality improvement initiatives, as well as important patient and family education topics and content on facilitating care transitions. There is also a focus on collaboration and teamwork within the clinical health care team, which is a crucial factor in critical care. The “Trending Priorities in Healthcare” boxes discuss current issues that can impact health care, including limited English proficiency, homelessness, and disasters, and how they affect our ability to provide care.

Third place: Rapid Access Guide for Triage and Emergency Nurses: Chief Complaints with High-Risk Presentations

Rapid Access Guide for Triage and Emergency Nurses is an excellent, well-organized, pocket-size reference book that enhances triage and emergency nurses’ skills and knowledge and supports their ability to recognize patients who may be experiencing life-threatening conditions. This resource serves as a guide to facilitate quick decision-making in the ED. It is filled with tips that highlight and summarize important concepts related to assessment and patient presentation, including common chief complaints and diagnoses. A wide range of content is covered, from emergency nursing basics to management of mass casualty incidents. In each chapter, red flags, triage considerations, and key tips are presented, which makes this book stand out from other pocket guides. Infographics reinforce normal and abnormal assessment findings for various populations and help guide care plans. This book is chock full of little gems of knowledge that all nurses can benefit from, no matter their skill level.

DIGITAL PRODUCTS

First-place winner: vrClinicals for Nursing | Medical-Surgical

This is an amazing virtual reality product to help nursing students at all levels hone prioritization and clinical judgment skills. The courses and assignments are easy for faculty to set up, and the ability to quickly toggle from educator view to student view and back is a great option. The virtual environment is easy to navigate, with clear and realistic visuals and scenarios. Notably, students get to see the impact of their decision-making when they see the patient in a second round. The preassessment work sets the tone for the experience and the guided feedback enables student reflection. I appreciated the student tutorials that explain how to use the headset and provide an opportunity to practice in the virtual environment before starting an assignment.

Second place: PMHNP Certification Ultimate Review Online Study Pack

PMHNP Certification Ultimate Review Online Study Pack is a great resource for those preparing to take the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) certification examination. This product is easy to use. Its study plan dashboard helps learners track their progress and stay on course in advance of the examination.
Interactive study games and flash cards keep the learner engaged. The confidence self-ratings provide learners the opportunity to identify their comfort level with specific content and self-measure their improvement. Also included is content on how to study, self-care tips, and information about the examination.

Third place: HESI/Saunders Online Review for the NCLEX-RN Examination


This is a wonderful, cost-effective resource to help new graduates prepare for the NCLEX examination. It is interactive and includes graphics, video clips, and opportunities to self-check knowledge in each study module. Pretests provide a solid foundation for study. The personalized study calendar is a great tool to keep the learner on track. Test-taking strategies and background information on the NCLEX examination are also provided.

GERONTOLOGIC NURSING

Chosen by Sharon Stahl Wexler, PhD, RN, FNGNA
Professor and chairperson, Department of PhD in Nursing, Lienhard School of Nursing at the College of Health Professions, Pace University

First-place winner: Toward Healthy Aging: Human Needs and Nursing Response


This is an excellent book to teach gerontology to undergraduate nursing students. It is comprehensive, current, and written from a wellness perspective. Each chapter starts with brief reflection quotes from various individuals (“A student speaks,” “An older adult speaks”), which are very powerful. Also included are engaging case studies; colorful diagrams and photos; and useful tables, safety tips, and research questions. In addition, there are Next Generation NCLEX-style questions in each chapter. This book also offers a great chapter on cross-cultural care.

Second place: Textbook for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner: Evidence-Based Standards of Practice


This textbook is very comprehensive and is organized by body system, which makes it easy to use as a reference book. It begins with a robust discussion on the role of the acute care NP, including the scope and standards of practice. The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses and National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties competencies are addressed throughout the text. Each chapter covers a particular body system, common conditions of that system, a full assessment differential diagnosis, current evidence-based standards for managing conditions, and specific considerations for the acute care setting. Palliative care and pain management are covered as well. This book provides all the basic content and resources that a beginner adult-gerontology acute care NP needs to prepare for the certification examination and entry into practice.

HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

Chosen by M. Lindell Joseph, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAONL
Distinguished Scholar in Nursing, clinical professor, and director of DNP and MSN Health Systems: Administration and Executive Leadership programs, University of Iowa College of Nursing

First-place winner: Taking Action: Top 10 Priorities to Promote Health Equity and Well-Being in Nursing

By Susan B. Hassmiller and Gaea A. Daniel. Indianapolis, IN, Sigma Theta Tau International.

This thought-provoking book transforms one’s thinking from introspective and siloed to inclusive and global. It provides new concepts, content, and case studies on reimaging complex problems. Its discussion of systems thinking, multisector collaboration, and partnerships illustrates the scope of nursing practice like never before. Lastly, the tools within this book reinforce the fact that all nurses are prepared to lead to transform health care locally and globally.

Second place: Nursing Leadership During Crisis: Insights Guiding Leaders from the Covid-19 Pandemic

By Carolyn Miller Reilly, Barbara Kaplan, and Tim Porter-O’Grady. Indianapolis, IN, Sigma Theta Tau International.

This book was creatively conceived and provides new and timely knowledge. The authors introduce the nursing community to the philosophy of adaptive leadership for times of crisis. They draw upon experiences and lessons learned from the pandemic, offering best practices to navigate the next crisis or pandemic.

Third place: The Innovation Handbook: A Nurse Leader’s Guide to Transforming Nursing

By Bonnie Clipper. Indianapolis, IN, Sigma Theta Tau International.

This book is a must-have resource: it uniquely provides a big-picture view of what innovation really is. The author provides leaders at all levels with tools to transform health care and nursing practice and discusses new technologies to leverage models of care and address workforce needs.

HISTORY AND PUBLIC POLICY

Chosen by Katheren Koehn, MA, RN, FAAN
Executive director, Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses

First-place winner: Taking Action: Top 10 Priorities to Promote Health Equity and Well-Being in Nursing

By Susan B. Hassmiller and Gaea A. Daniel. Indianapolis, IN, Sigma Theta Tau International.

This book provides practical strategies to promote health equity and well-being that are achievable by nurses in every level and setting—from students and direct care nurses to nurses in education and administration. There are 66 essays written by a diverse cadre of thought leaders who were asked to stay under 1,000 words; the writing is conversational, crisp, and understandable. The essays include calls to action for all nurses to be change agents in whichever arena they are most interested in.
Taking Action has an optimistic tone—while the issues of racism, health equity, and barriers to changing our profession can seem overwhelming, the essays are filled with hope for a better future. Light and filled with color, the book also includes inspirational quotes and poems. The authors give us a great starting point to move to action.

Second place: Health Policy and Analysis: Framework and Tools for Success


In the preface for this new edition, the authors state that they have come to recognize that students “generally lack a nuanced understanding of the U.S. political system,” so they decided to include new chapters that address our political structure, process, and culture. These chapters are fabulous additions because they provide a framework for the rest of the book, which takes a deep dive into the many aspects of policy analysis, such as the use of health data in analysis, stakeholder analysis, and how to measure whether a policy has been successful. It is engaging, makes the reader want to know more, and includes contemporary and relevant examples. This is a nonpartisan book written to help readers understand the partisan environment in which we strive to enact policies that will improve the health of all.

Third place: Dr. Nurse: Science, Politics, and the Transformation of American Nursing

By Dominique A. Tobbell. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

If you want to know how nursing education evolved to where it is today, this is the book to read. It charts the path from the earliest nursing education—in hospitals with diploma programs—to colleges and academic health centers. The author does a meticulous job of examining the changing nature of nursing education and its challenges and controversies. In addition to outlining the evolution of nursing education, she discusses the evolution of the medical industry, including that of health insurance. This is an important book for nurses who want to change health care policy—in order to make meaningful change, it is imperative to know how we got to where we are now so we can start unbundling past decisions.

First-place winner: Core Curriculum for Interdisciplinary Lactation Care


This comprehensive text targets the entire health care team in supporting breastfeeding families and promoting human milk feeding. It discusses a wide variety of topics, including common breastfeeding issues and challenges, the evidence supporting human milk feeding, shared decision-making in lactation care, lactation pharmacology, breast anatomy and physiology, the biochemical components of human milk, breastfeeding preterm infants and multiples, maternal and newborn complications, and health care policy issues. Each chapter is well referenced and thoroughly detailed. Case studies enhance the content. Any clinician working in lactation care will find this textbook an invaluable reference. It is an excellent resource for clinicians preparing for the lactation consultant or lactation counselor certification examinations.

Second place: Core Curriculum for Maternal-Newborn Nursing


This textbook is a longtime favorite of clinicians and academicians in maternity and neonatal clinical settings and schools of nursing. The revised edition has been updated to reflect the most recent evidence, guidelines, and standards, and has been vetted by the nurse experts at the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses. It offers concise yet thorough coverage of the content essential to the nursing care of mothers and babies, including common maternal complications. The text is well designed and well organized. Helpful case studies and sample test items are included at the end of every chapter.

**INFORMATICS**

Chosen by Judy Murphy, RN, FACMI, LFHIMSS, FAAN
Nursing executive and health information technology leader

First-place winner: Health Informatics: An Interprofessional Approach


This informatics textbook uses a truly interprofessional approach—an important focus as interprofessional education and team-based approaches to care are growing. It offers comprehensive coverage of key health informatics topics. It is very well organized and well written, including chapters from leading health informatics experts—nurses, physicians, lawyers, computer scientists, health administrators—from academia, research, and practice. As such, it is a great reference book or textbook for health professionals learning about the ever-expanding and flourishing field of health informatics today.

Second place: Digital Health and Public and Community Health

By Anita Finkelman. Solana Beach, CA, Cognella Academic Publishing.

This clear and concise text explores the critical topic of public health in our postpandemic world. The author describes how digital health can drive and support the objectives of the public health framework in the community and discusses methods to ensure the delivery of effective digital health services, as well as associated challenges. Public health is often underemphasized in nursing programs; this succinct text is helpful to lay out the key elements of nurses’ use of digital health.
Third place: Comprehensive Lactation Consultant Exam Review


This text is aimed at clinicians preparing for the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners certification examination. The revised edition has been updated to reflect the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners’ 2023 Detailed Content Outline and to be consistent with the most recent evidence. There are multiple sample test items in each chapter covering a wide range of subjects. These items include correct answer rationales. The test item format is structured as per the examination, helping learners become confident in their knowledge of what to expect. The many included photos greatly enhance and explain the content. Although the target audience is clinicians preparing for the lactation consultant examination, this text is also an outstanding resource for clinicians who work in lactation care and for educators teaching the principles of human lactation.

MEDICAL–SURGICAL NURSING

Chosen by Giang Martinez, DNP, MPA, AGCNS, APRN
Clinical nurse specialist

First-place winner: Lewis’s Medical-Surgical Nursing: Assessment and Management of Clinical Problems


Lewis’s Medical-Surgical Nursing is a formidable addition to the world of nursing education, offering a comprehensive and up-to-date exploration of the ever-evolving field of medical–surgical nursing. Notably, it dedicates a chapter to the social determinants of health, differentiates assessments on darker skin tones, and addresses the assessment of transgender patients.

Second place: Nursing Health Assessment: A Clinical Judgment Approach


Nursing Health Assessment offers an outstanding and unparalleled approach to health assessment that empowers nursing students with the skills necessary to excel in clinical practice. The book’s emphasis on clinical judgment sets it apart. It not only guides readers on how to collect and interpret data but also teaches them how to synthesize this information into actionable clinical decisions. This approach is vital in nursing, where assessments aren’t merely about data collection but about using that data to make informed and often life-altering choices for patients. The inclusion of case studies and clinical scenarios is an additional highlight.

Third place: Fundamentals of Nursing: The Art and Science of Person-Centered Care


Fundamentals of Nursing is a comprehensive and well-organized textbook that serves as a valuable resource for nursing students embarking on their educational journey. This book excels in its commitment to person-centered care, emphasizing the holistic approach that is fundamental to nursing practice. It underscores the importance of treating each patient as a unique individual with specific needs, backgrounds, and preferences. This perspective is essential in today’s diverse health care landscape and helps future nurses become culturally sensitive caregivers. Finally, the text’s focus on both the art and science of nursing blends the technical aspects of nursing with the humanistic elements, helping students understand that nursing is not just a set of skills, but a deeply caring and compassionate profession.

NURSING EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chosen by Natasha Nurse-Clarke, PhD, RN, FAAN
Associate professor, Department of Nursing, and undergraduate program director, Lehman College, City University of New York

First-place winner: A Systematic Approach to Evaluation of Nursing Programs


In today’s health care landscape, the quality of nursing education is paramount, and this book offers a comprehensive guide to the evaluation of nursing programs—a topic of critical importance. What sets this text apart is its ability to simplify complex evaluation concepts. Marilyn H. Oermann adeptly takes the often-intimidating process of program evaluation and breaks it down into clear, comprehensible steps. Her practical approach provides actionable insights and real-world examples, ensuring that readers can apply evaluation principles in a meaningful way to enhance nursing education. Her writing style is accessible and engaging, making program evaluation seem not only manageable but even enjoyable. Furthermore, the book delves into how to use data meaningfully, equipping educators not only with knowledge on collecting data but also on how to analyze and leverage it to drive positive changes in their nursing programs, ultimately benefiting both education quality and patient care.

Second place: Spotlighting Narrative Pedagogy in Nursing Education

By Susan E. Bassett. Solana Beach, CA, Cognella Academic Publishing.

Spotlighting Narrative Pedagogy offers a thorough and comprehensive evidence-based exploration of the use of storytelling as a teaching strategy in nursing education. While storytelling has been informally employed by nurses and nurse educators for gener-
Third place: Clinical Simulations in Nursing Education: Advanced Concepts, Trends, and Opportunities

This book addresses a topic of increasing importance in nursing education: the use of simulation. With recent legislative changes allowing for additional clinical hours to be allocated to simulation, it has become crucial for nurse educators to understand how to effectively utilize this teaching strategy. What sets this book apart is its forward-thinking approach. It explores the fundamentals of simulation as well as its innovative uses, such as gaming, escape rooms, holograms, augmented reality, and virtual reality. These cutting-edge teaching strategies demand evidence-based approaches and guidelines, all of which this text offers. It doesn’t just present novel ideas; it supports them with research and best practices, lending credibility and reliability to the strategies and recommendations provided. The book caters to a wide range of nursing educators and professionals, making it a valuable resource for those seeking to excel in simulation-based teaching.

First-place winner: Middle Range Theory for Nursing

Middle Range Theory for Nursing is an essential guide to furthering the development and application of nursing science for all nurse scholars, whether engaged in research, education, or clinical practice. Theory is a primary driver for research design, interpretation, and translation to practice. This text provides an accessible overview of theory generation within nursing, from the philosophical to the theoretical and empirical. It clearly describes the direct linkage and applicability of middle range theories to research and practice. Sixteen middle range theories are examined, including examples of the use of each theory in research. In addition, an extensive list of over 100 middle range theories is included in the appendix.

Second place: Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare: A Guide to Best Practice


Now in its fifth edition, this text is an established essential resource for clinicians and nurse scholars to inform the evaluation and translation of the empirical literature into clinical practice. It provides foundational information on key aspects of the nursing research process, including “asking compelling clinical questions,” finding and appraising relevant evidence, research design, funding, and dissemination strategies. A new chapter on implementation science clearly outlines implementation theories, models, and frameworks. The text is replete with content to support the nurse scholar in improving the delivery of health care through the generation and implementation of evidence. It is written in an accessible format inclusive of a broad nursing audience.

Third place: Statistics and Data Analysis Literacy for Nurses


This text is a new contribution to the literature on data analysis and research design for nurses. What distinguishes this work is its intentional construction to support the DNP learner. Most faculty who have taught data analysis in a DNP program understand the trepidation many DNP learners have toward data generation and interpretation. This text promises to diffuse that dread by presenting statistical information in a clear, accessible, and relatable voice supported by engaging visuals. Particularly relevant is its emphasis on attention to the strength of associations or differences in data rather than a myopic view of the P value as the indicator of most importance. It also offers robust learning resources, including end-of-chapter exercises, PowerPoints, and a test bank.

First-place winner: The Nature of Suffering and the Goals of Nursing


The Nature of Suffering and the Goals of Nursing is a beautiful and significant book that highlights the most important ideals of nursing within the broader context of the health care system. The editors have woven together a tapestry of diverse voices on the far-reaching topic of suffering that call upon nurses’ highest purpose—to acknowledge, address, and attend to suffering. Importantly, each chapter includes a case exemplar that brings
concepts to life. This second edition has expanded from five to 18 chapters that span conceptual frameworks, patient populations, contexts, and settings, including more macroscopic ideas of systematic and societal suffering. The writing conveys a tone of humility that is essential to addressing a weighty topic such as suffering. Though serious, the text is also inspirational—it leaves the reader with a sense of optimism about how humans care for one another.

**PROFESSIONAL ISSUES**

Chosen by Jackie Owens, PhD, RN, CNE
Professor of nursing, Ashland University, and editor-in-chief, OJIN: The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing

First-place winner: The Innovation Handbook: A Nurse Leader’s Guide to Transforming Nursing

*By Bonnie Clipper. Indianapolis, IN, Sigma Theta Tau International.*

“_Innovation_” is a word often heard in the context of nursing and health care. Nurses are encouraged to think outside the box to create solutions for patients and families, health care facilities, and themselves. This is easier said than done; even with interest and understanding, most lack sufficient time for creative reflection—much less action. _The Innovation Handbook_ is a quick read for busy nurses that offers practical ideas for applying innovation to practice. While it targets nurse leaders, author Bonnie Clipper notes that all nurses must create change to sustain the profession, given the challenges it faces. Readable and clear, the book is packed with great information that will surely lead to both thinking and action. Its toolkit format lends the ability to refer to it over time.

Second place: Nursing Ethics: Across the Curriculum and into Practice


This book offers a wealth of information on ethics in nursing. In a nod to the ethics content included in both the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s 2021 Essentials and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing’s 2019 NCLEX-RN Test Plan, the revised edition offers valuable content to support these priorities. It is divided into three parts—Theories and Concepts, Nursing Ethics Across the Life Span, and Special Issues (such as psychiatric and mental health nursing ethics, public health nursing ethics, and organizational and leadership ethics)—and includes reflection activities, legal perspectives, and debate prompts in each chapter. There are many excellent case examples addressing current dilemmas in health care faced by nurses in various settings. The electronic resources, including self-assessments, an interactive eBook, study guides with discussion questions, and case study videos are helpful to nurses at any level. Instructor resources are also provided.

Third place: Resiliency in Nursing: Stretched but Not Broken

*Edited by Mary Bemker and Christine Ralyea. Lancaster, PA, DEStech Publications, Inc.*

Compassion fatigue, moral distress, burnout, and PTSD are commonly experienced by nurses. This timely book offers nurses and health care organizations practical actions and resources to help build resilience. Some are appropriate for individual efforts; others could inform support groups or continuing education offerings on resiliency. The content is based on evidence and offers clarity about concepts that are often confusing and (incorrectly) used interchangeably. This book is appropriate as a course textbook for nursing students at any level and includes student and instructor resources. But it is not tedious student-level reading; all nurse readers will likely recognize themselves in the many case study examples and find use in the strategies to promote resiliency. Whether you are a student preparing for a career in nursing, a seasoned nurse questioning your desire to continue in your role, or a leader in a health care facility struggling to support and retain employees, _Resiliency in Nursing_ will prove helpful.

**PSYCHIATRIC AND MENTAL HEALTH NURSING**

Chosen by Donna Sabella, PhD, MEd, MSN, PMHNP-BC
Executive director, Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council, and graduate mental health faculty at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

First-place winner: Adverse Childhood Experiences: The Neuroscience of Trauma, Resilience and Healing Throughout the Life Course


This book is an invaluable resource for understanding what trauma is and how to prevent, mitigate, and reverse its consequences. Brewer-Smyth, in clear and concise language, walks the reader through the neuroscience of trauma—a subject that is sorely lacking in many undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. The book begins with an overview of adverse traumatic experiences and then goes on to detail their consequences; how trauma impacts the brain, the body, behavior, and society; and various forms of healing. It is aimed at a broad audience, including readers who work in health care, education, and public safety, as well as anyone who wishes to understand the consequences of ACEs. It is a welcome addition to the reading list for all nurses, especially psychiatric and mental health nurses. Each chapter contains numerous resources and an extensive list of references.

Second place: Mental Health Nursing


This textbook is geared toward LPN and LVN students. It is just the right length—not overwhelming—and the authors make their points quickly and concisely. The chapters are well laid out and aesthetically appealing. There are numerous features that engage the student with the content, including key takeaway highlights,
critical thinking questions, clinical activities, case studies, and multiple-choice questions, just to name a few. I commend the authors for not overlooking LPN and LVN students and aiming to ensure that they have what it takes to provide the best care possible to patients experiencing mental health issues.

Third place: Psychiatric–Mental Health Nursing

It's no secret that students often don't read course textbooks, and perhaps one reason why is being intimidated by heavy (literally and figuratively) content. Videbeck's concise paperback book—which makes the claim that it is student-friendly—is just that. Appealing and inviting, it contains up-to-date content, is well organized and written, and goes beyond with features on self-reflection, evidence-based practice, and client and family education. The text gives attention to cultural considerations for patient care—a topic that is sorely needed, as patients are anything but a homogenous group and students need to become aware of the importance of cultural ethnocentrism, competence, and humility. Additionally, each chapter includes clinical vignettes and sample care plans.

PUBLIC AND POPULATION HEALTH

Chosen by Barbara J. Polivka, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor and associate dean of research, University of Kansas School of Nursing

By Patricia M. Schoon and Carolyn M. Porta. 4th edition. Indianapolis, IN, Sigma Theta Tau International.

The book is uniquely based on 13 competencies for entry-level public health nursing. The competencies, which are consistent with established national guidelines, clearly provide students and new public health nurses with an understanding of the skills and knowledge needed for public health nursing practice. The book covers a wide variety of topics and frameworks and presents engaging clinical examples that demonstrate the concepts discussed. The complexity of public health is addressed in a manner that is challenging but not overwhelming.

Second place: A Population Health Approach to Health Disparities for Nurses: Care of Vulnerable Populations

This book provides an overview of population health from a historical, conceptual, and policy perspective. It includes examples that clearly illustrate the social determinants of health and the interconnectedness between these factors and health outcomes. Disparities are addressed pertaining to a variety of circumstances and factors, such as location (for example, rural and urban environments), health conditions (diabetes, mental health), social conditions (health care access), race and ethnicity, and policy. The case studies are realistic, challenging, and thought provoking, and useful discussion questions are included at the end of each chapter. The historical roots of disparities are discussed throughout the book, providing context.

Third place: Population Health: Practical Skills for Future Health Professionals
By Anne M. Hewitt. Solana Beach, CA, Cognella Academic Publishing

This book presents population health from multiple perspectives and frameworks. It is clearly written and includes relevant and colorful visuals. Each chapter begins with a word cloud that provides an overview of key chapter concepts. Embedded throughout the book are QR codes that link the reader to interesting readings and resources relevant to the chapter content. The complexities and changing landscape of population health are thoroughly discussed.