Nursing 447 is a 100% online course in Health Assessment for the Registered Nurse seeking a BSN. This course is required for all 500+ students in order to graduate.

**Student Demographics:**
- Average number of students per semester = 80-120
- Ages 20-62
- New registered nurses to experienced ICU nurses
- Most New England but several other East coast states represented.

**Teaching Formats:**
- Textbook resources including PPT lectures, visual and audio resources, sample NCLEX test questions.
- Forums to simulate classroom discussions of clinical cases and current issues in health maintenance.
- Weekly Quizzes to test knowledge.

**The CHALLENGE**

Health assessment uses **all senses** to gather information about the health status of an individual. This is usually accomplished in a laboratory setting with student partners or simulation exercises.

**Can we create this in a 100% online course?**

Enter Shadow Health and the Digital Clinical Experience. Meet our patients Tina, Brian and Esther

These **“avatars”** or simulated patients:
- Communicate with the students by responding to appropriate questions
- Allow the student to examine their lifelike bodies using the tools for examination.
- Use critical thinking skills to problem solve and plan for care.
- Require the student to appropriately communicate their findings digitally for evaluation by faculty.

**RESULTS**

Student evaluations and complaints during the semester revealed accelerated course requirements with multiple assignments created significant stress with work schedules, family commitments and staying healthy and eager to learn.

• Changed Shadow Health assignments to a graded lab experience allowing students to receive extensive feedback and practice for improvement before submitting for a grade. Extended due dates.

“I thought that the shadow health program was very helpful and a great way to practice what we learned in the readings without having an actual clinical course. It allowed for me to apply what I learned and to go back and improve myself as needed. It also allowed me to focus on developing my critical thinking skills further”.

Diane Gerzevitz - College of Nursing