Med Surg is a continuation of Fundamentals. You will be doing the same topics you covered last semester, but this will a more in-depth discussion about the conditions or diseases. Think of it this way, semester one you were looking through a camera lens, and it was a little blurry. Semester two you will be starting to adjust and focus more to see a clearer picture.

If you are not familiar with **CONCEPT MAPS**, I recommend getting used to a format that works for you. Concept maps will be your best friend going forward with this program for all classes. I have enclosed a template I created, it's a Word document. Feel free to edit it to your liking.

When you look at Syllabus C, you will see column 3 is labeled exemplars. You want to focus on what is listed in this column. These are the conditions and diseases for which you will be tested. This includes medications as well.

For example, week one of Med Surg covers CAD & PVD focusing on the conditions below. This means you will be doing your concept maps on these conditions.
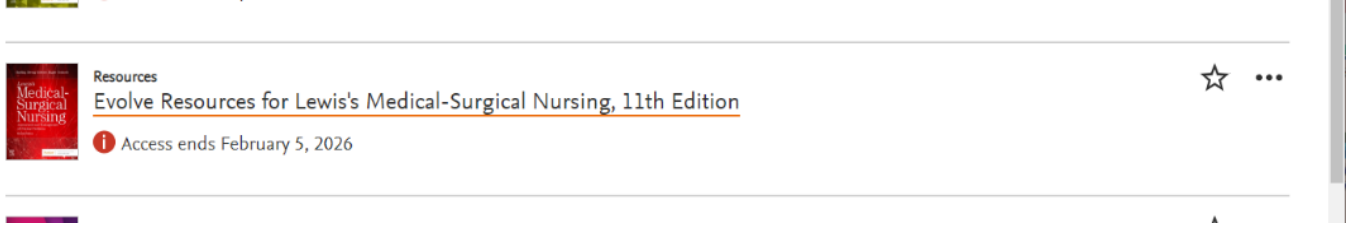- Atherosclerosis
- Arteriosclerosis
- Heart Failure-chronic
- Hypertension

In addition to using a concept map, I recommend doing a **CONCEPT MAP FOR CARE PLANS**. These types of concept maps allow you to see the bigger picture of the disease and conditions.
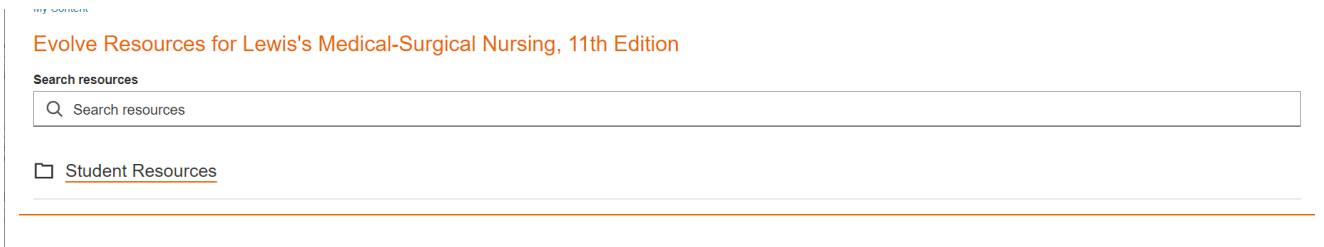
Remember exams are not testing you on if you memorized ALL the causes and risk factors of a disease or condition. Tests are seeing if you can apply information to a scenario and that is what a care plan concept map does for you. You create and work through a scenario. I recommend to creating a concept map for course slides that have a nursing diagnosis listed. Also, in the Lewis Book on Evolve there are care plans associated with the chapters. Use those as a guide to set up your concept map.
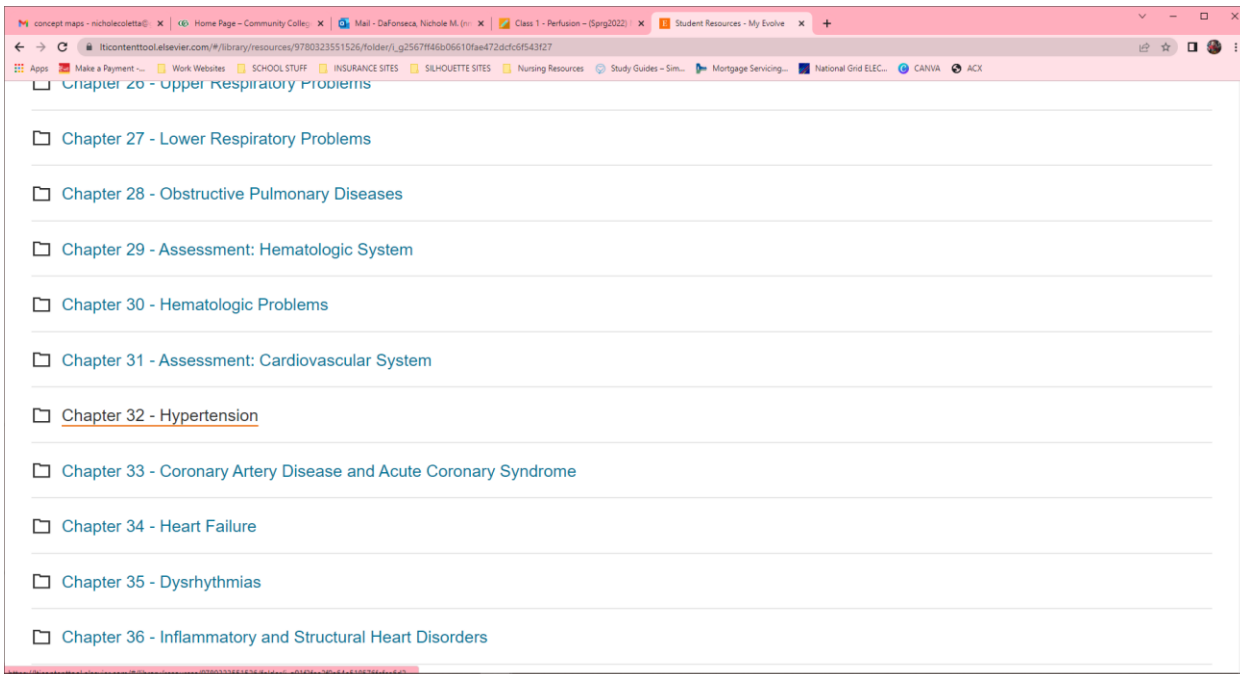
EVOLVE RESOURCES

For med surg you will be using the BIG **RED** LEWIS BOOK.

Resources
Evolve Resources for Lewis's Medical-Surgical Nursing, 11th Edition
ⓘ Access ends February 5, 2026

☆ ...

Student Resources under this book are VERY HELPFUL! Utilize as much as you can from the free stuff, that's included in your book purchase.

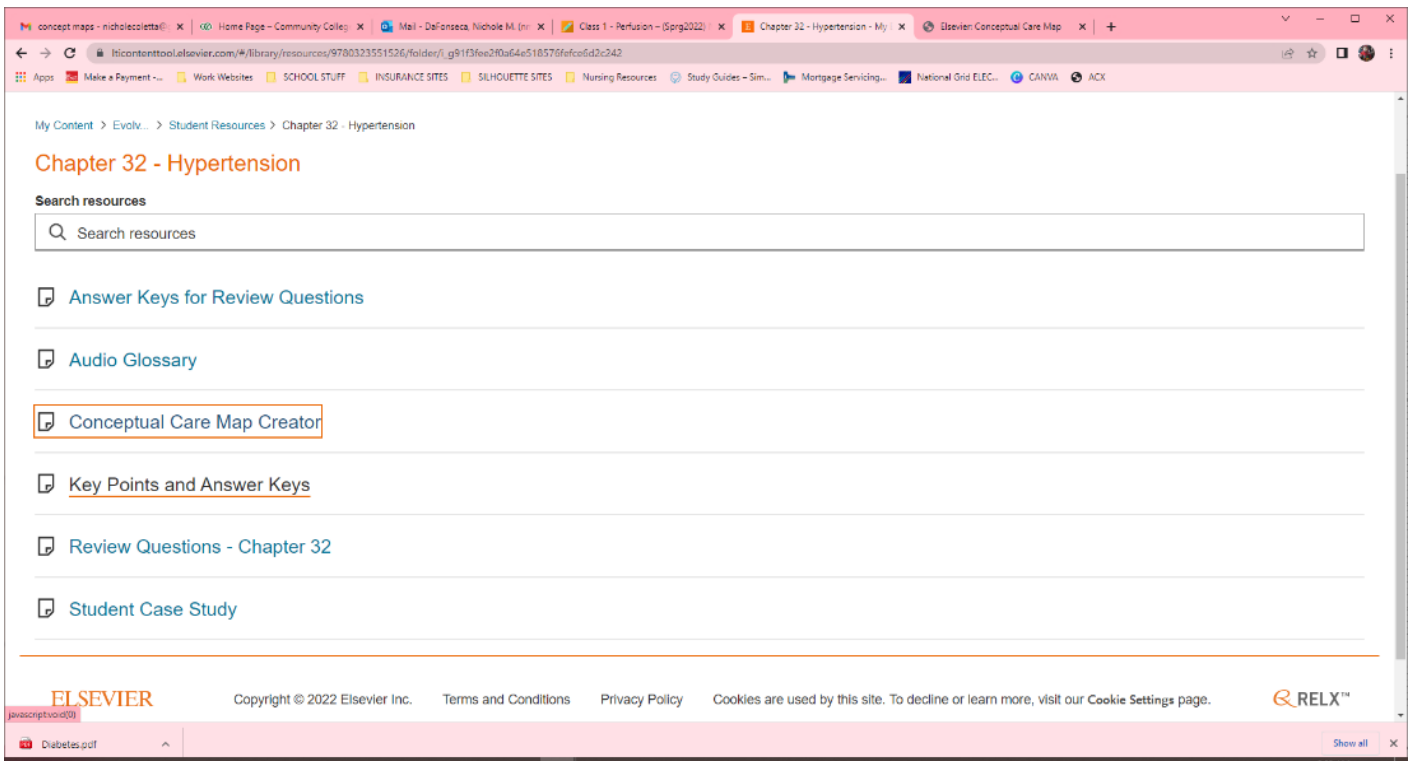Evolve Resources for Lewis's Medical-Surgical Nursing, 11th Edition

Search resources

🔍 Search resources

📁 Student Resources

Look at Syllabus C to determine which chapters you need. For this example, we are looking at Hypertension, chapter 32.

📁 Chapter 26 - Upper Respiratory Problems

📁 Chapter 27 - Lower Respiratory Problems

📁 Chapter 28 - Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases

📁 Chapter 29 - Assessment: Hematologic System

📁 Chapter 30 - Hematologic Problems

📁 Chapter 31 - Assessment: Cardiovascular System

📁 Chapter 32 - Hypertension

📁 Chapter 33 - Coronary Artery Disease and Acute Coronary Syndrome

📁 Chapter 34 - Heart Failure

📁 Chapter 35 - Dysrhythmias

📁 Chapter 36 - Inflammatory and Structural Heart Disorders

Once you click on the link for chapter you are working on, you will see a list of resources for the chapter.

CONCEPTUAL CARE MAP CREATOR

This book has the option of using their care map template to generate your study guides. (Enclosed is a sample for diabetes which was my first sim lab). The only downfall to this tool, is it times out on you a lot, because of this I only used it once or twice. I was getting a bit too aggravated with it timing out, and me losing information I typed because I didn't hit save, and it did not auto save.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer the review questions for each chapter. There will likely be approximately 15-25 questions for each chapter. Some questions will not be related to the exemplars, but complete the questions so that you get used to the question format. Do this especially for the first test (TEST 1).

NURSING CARE PLANS

Some chapters will have completed care plans already done for you. Print these care plans and incorporate it into your own care plan study guide.

TIP: Start including care plans into your studying strategies this semester. It allows you to apply the information to a scenario, which in turn will help you understand the material that much better.
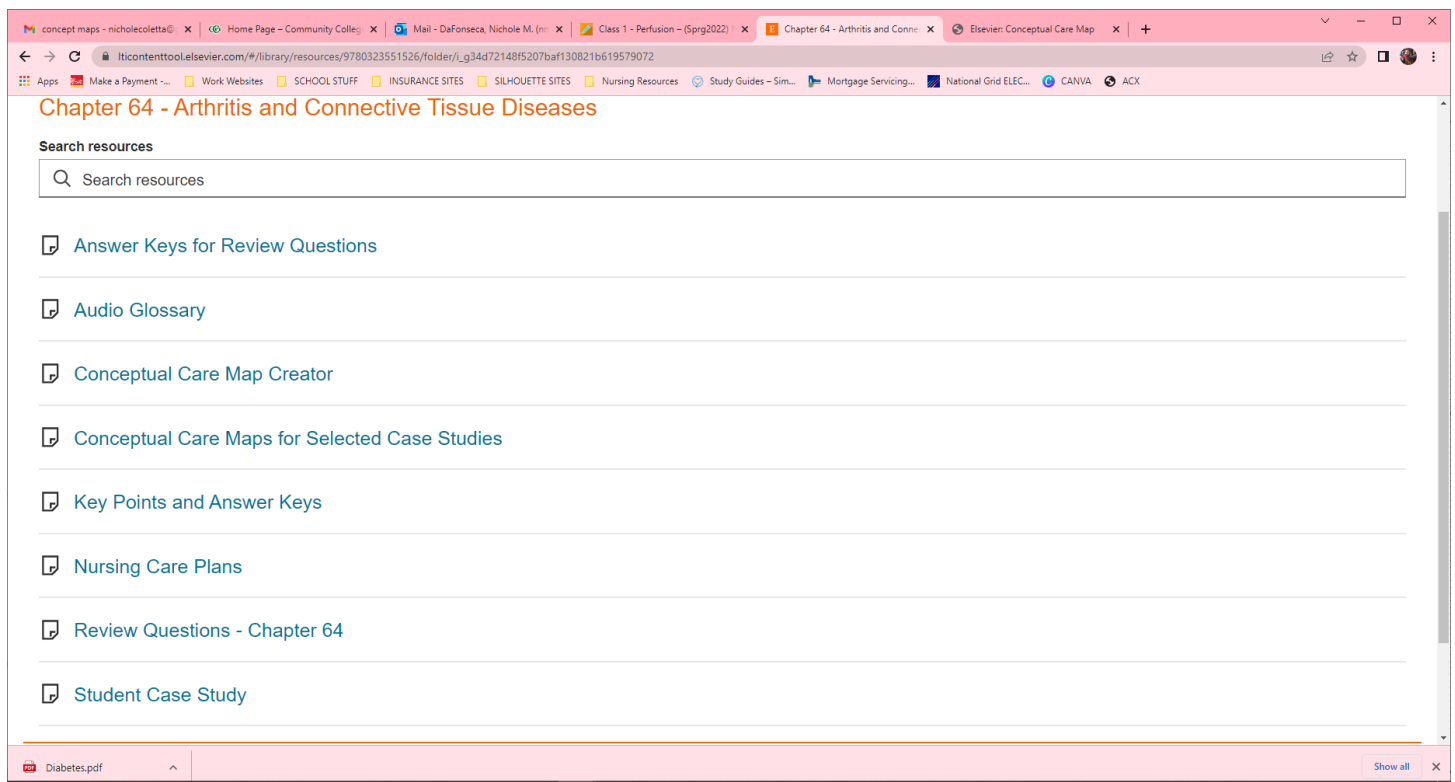
For chapters that you don't automatically have a care plan created for your use, you will need to make your own.

Enclosed is a copy of what the nursing care plan download looks like, along with my template. Use my template as a starting point and modify it so it works for you and your studying needs.

The first week of class the following nursing diagnoses are listed on your syllabus:

- Ackley
- Decreased Cardiac Output: pp. 190-197
- Ineffective Peripheral Tissue Perfusion: pp. 929-933
- Fatigue: pp. 387-391

Make a concept care maps/care plans for the above to study from.

Adaptive Quizzing

Something that is not told to you is that you can purchase adaptive quizzing through evolve for the Lewis book. If you can swing it, I recommend doing it. Semester 2 has a LOT of SELECT ALL THAT APPLY style questions. I'm going to repeat this because I think it's important to know… there are A LOT of SELECT ALL THAT APPLY questions. The quizzes do not provide how many answers to select for a questions like you received for semester 1. I found by purchasing adaptive quizzing, it helped me to get stronger at these style questions because it had a lot of those questions styles.

Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing - Next Generation
Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing for Lewis Medical-Surgical Nursing, 11th Edition
ⓘ Access ends March 31, 2025

(Enter Instructor's Course ID)

Medication Exemplars

Avoid getting overwhelmed by learning medications. The easiest way to learn medications is to learn the class of medications. This works well with a class of medications that have multiple medications (E.g. Opioids & PCA). Instead of making a medication sheet based on the four individual medication exemplars within a class, create a drug class prototype sheet. If the medications are in the same class, the therapeutic effects, the side effects, contraindications, nursing interventions, and patient education will most likely be similar. Look for WHAT MAKES STANDS OUT from each medication. This technique reduces the amount of information to memorize by focusing on the differences of the medications.

MCUSTION (pharmacy book) has medications by prototype. Use these prototypes to create your study guides. All the information you need for medication exemplars is in the prototype section.

LAB VALUES

IMPORTANT TIP! Make sure if there are lab values on your PowerPoint slides that you know them! Understand what are normal and abnormal lab values and the complications the abnormal values may cause.

Use the lab values provided to you on your course PowerPoint slides. You will see different lab values in your textbooks, but memorize the lab values given to you on the PowerPoint slides for testing purposes.