L.N. 265 of 1998

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Institute of Health Care Certificate in Nursing Practice Course Regulations, 1998

IN exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 30 (5) and 31 (6) of the Education Act (Cap. 327), the Chancellor of the University of Malta has promulgated the following regulations made by the Senate of the University of Malta by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by sections 31 and 35 of the said Act:

Citation and interpretation

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Institute of Health Care Certificate in Nursing Practice Course Regulations, 1998.

(2) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires -

"the Board" means the Board of the Institute of Health Care;

"the Certificate" means the Institute of Health Care Certificate in Nursing Practice;

"the Course" means the Course leading to the Institute of Health Care Certificate in Nursing Practice; and

"the Institute" means the Institute of Health Care of the University of Malta.

Applicability

2. These regulations shall apply to Courses starting in October 1992 or later.

Eligibility for Certificate

3. To be eligible for the award of the Certificate students must have:

(a) been registered as students in the Institute for a minimum period of twenty-one months;

(b) completed an appropriate course of studies in accordance with these regulations;

(c) been successful in the relevant examinations; and

(d) satisfied all other requirements laid down in these regulations and in any other relevant statutes, regulations and bye-laws of the University.

Registration

4. Candidates may be registered as students in the Course if they:

(a) are not less than 17 years of age within three calendar months from the date on which the Course commences;

(b) satisfy the Entry Requirements as specified in regulation 5;

(c) satisfy the Board that they have the necessary aptitude for nursing (candidates may be required to attend an interview for this purpose); and

(d) satisfy the Department of Health as to their medical fitness to undertake nursing duties.

Entry Requirements

5. (1) In order to be admitted to the Course candidates must have one of the following qualifications:

(a) passes in the Secondary Education Certificate Examination (or equivalent) in four subjects, including English Language; or

(b) a pass from the Pre-Vocational School (Health Care) in four subjects, including English Language; or

(c) have completed at least the first year of the Health Assistants (Nursing) course with credit and are recommended by the Head of Nursing Studies as being able to follow the Course with profit; or

(d) have successfully completed a Health Assistants course prior to 1989 and can demonstrate to the Board that they have the ability to follow the Course with profit; or

(e) are 23 years of age or over, and can demonstrate to the Board that they have the ability to follow the Course with profit; or

(f) have been registered in the Course for the Diploma in Nursing or the Diploma in Midwifery of the University.

(2) In addition to the requirements listed in paragraph (1) of this regulation, overseas students must demonstrate proficiency in both written and oral English.

Duration of the Course

6. (1) The Course shall extend over three academic years and is divided into two parts:

Part A - 2 semesters
Part B - 4 semesters.

(2) Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this regulation, students must successfully complete Part A of the Course before proceeding to Part B.

(3) Students admitted under paragraph (c) of regulation 5 shall, under special circumstances and with the approval of the Board, be exempted from Part A of the Course.

(4) Students admitted under paragraph (f) of regulation 5 shall normally be exempted, on a module for module basis, from those modules in which they have been successful in the course for the Diploma in Nursing or the Diploma in Midwifery, and from the Part A Comprehensive Examination, under such conditions that the Board, on the recommendation of the Board of Nursing Studies, may in each case determine. No student may be exempted from the Final Comprehensive Examination.

(5) Students may take the Final Comprehensive Examination not earlier than two years nine months and not later than four years, except with the permission of the Board,
provided that for students admitted under paragraph (f) of regulation 5, the Board may fix different limits compatible with the above and dependent on the time spent in the Diploma course.

Course of Studies - Part A

7. (1) Part A of the Course comprises modules relating to specific aspects of nursing. Each module has a theoretical and a clinical component which are interdependent.

(2) The Board shall stipulate the sequence of modules students may take.

(3) Students shall be assessed in each module in both the theory and practice of nursing.

(4) Students who fail the theoretical component of a module shall be allowed one re-assessment of that component.

(5) Clinical practice shall be assessed by nurse teachers or clinical nurses from relevant areas of practice.

Completion of Part A of the Course

8. (1) To complete Part A of the Course successfully and continue to Part B students must obtain the following:

(a) a pass grade in all the theoretical module assessments;

(b) a pass grade in all the clinical module assessments; and

(c) pass in the Part A Comprehensive Examination.

(2) Students who fail the Part A Comprehensive Examination shall be allowed to resit the examination on one other occasion, normally prior to the commencement of Part B of the Course.

Course of Studies - Part B

9. (1) Part B of the Course comprises modules relating to specific aspects of nursing. Each module has theoretical and practical components which are interdependent.

(2) The Board shall stipulate the sequence of modules students may take.

(3) Clinical practice shall be assessed by nurse teachers or clinical nurses from relevant areas of practice.

Theoretical Component

10. (1) On completion of a module, students shall be assessed and shall be awarded grades in descending order of merit, indicating the standard attained by them as follows: A+, A, B+, B, C+, C, D+, D. F indicates fail.

(2) If they fail a module students shall be allowed to resit the appropriate assessment once. If successful in the resit, students shall be awarded the minimum grade D.

(3) Students who fail the resit in more than two modules shall not be allowed to continue the Course.

(4) Students who fail the resit in not more than two modules may be allowed by the Board to repeat the failed module or modules on only one other occasion, at the end of the Course. On completion of each module students shall be awarded either the minimum grade D or F - Fail, according to the standard attained in their theoretical module assessments.

(5) Students who fail in any repeated module shall not be allowed to continue the Course, except in special circumstances and with the permission of the Board given on the recommendation of the Board of Nursing Studies.

(6) Absence from assessments, unless for a cause considered justified by the Board, shall be considered equivalent to a Fail.

Clinical Component

11. (1) Students shall be required to undergo clinical placements in areas and in the sequence specified by the Board.

(2) Successful completion of a module shall be determined by a process of continuous assessment. Clinical components shall be assessed on a Pass/Fail basis.

(3) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) of this regulation, students who fail a module may repeat the module on only one other occasion, at the end of the Course.

(4) Students who fail more than two modules in Part B shall not be allowed to continue the Course or to sit for the Final Comprehensive Examination, except in special circumstances and with the permission of the Board given on the recommendation of the Board of Nursing Studies.

Completion of Course

12. To complete the Course students must have:

(a) successfully completed Part A of the Course in terms of the provisions of regulation 8, unless exempted in terms of paragraphs (3) and (4) of regulation 6; and

(b) obtained at least a pass grade in each module of Part B in both theory and practice, unless exempted in terms of paragraph (4) of regulation 6, provided that the Board may exempt students from specified modules if they have obtained a qualification, the study for which is equivalent in content and standard to that required for the modules concerned.

Final Comprehensive Examination

13. (1) Students shall be required to sit for the Final Comprehensive Examination after satisfying the requirements laid down in regulation 12.

(2) The Final Comprehensive Examination comprises the following two papers taken in the same session:

Paper I	Theory and Practice of Nursing
Paper II	Nursing Issues and Nursing Ethics.

(3) The Final Comprehensive Examination shall normally take place shortly after the end of the last module of the Course.

(4) The overall evaluation of students for the Certificate shall be based on their performance in the Final Comprehensive Examination but, in borderline cases, performance during Part B of the Course shall also be taken into consideration.

(5) Students who fail in either or both papers shall be required to resit the paper(s) at a time specified by the Board, normally within four to six months of completion of the Course. Students may also be required to take a *viva voce* examination on the subject matter of the paper(s) failed.

(6) Students shall not be allowed any further attempts at the Final Comprehensive Examination.

(7) Students who are allowed to resit part or all of the Final Comprehensive Examination shall not be eligible to obtain a grade higher than D.

Result

14. The names of students who qualify for the award of the Certificate shall be published in a list in alphabetical order in the following three categories:

Pass with Distinction
Pass with Credit
Pass.