B 1400

L.N. 190 of 1997

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) - B.Pharm. (Hons) - Degree Course Regulations, 1997

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 upon it by section 31 and 35 of the said Act:

Citation and interpretation

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) - B.Pharm. (Hons) - Degree Course Regulations, 1997.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery;

"the Course" means the course leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) - B.Pharm. (Hons);

"the Degree" means the Degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) - B.Pharm. (Hons.).

Applicability

2. These regulations shall be applicable to courses starting in October 1995 or later.

Eligibility for the Degree

3. To be eligible for the Degree a candidate must -

(a) be registered as a regular student in the Course in terms of the Admission Regulations of the University;

(b) complete the course of studies, qualify in the examinations and satisfy any other requirements prescribed in these regulations; and

(c) satisfy any other requirements prescribed in any other relevant statutes and regulations of the University.

Registration and Special course requirements

4. To be registered as a regular student in the Course a candidate must, besides satisfying the general entry requirements specified in the Admission Regulations of the University, satisfy the following special course requirements:

(a) For courses starting in 1995 or 1996:

Passes at Advanced Matriculation Level or at the approved corresponding levels of other examinations in:

(i) Chemistry; and

(ii) two other subjects from:

Physics, Biology, Mathematics, Computer Science, Philosophy, English Language;

(b) For courses starting in 1997 or later:

as part of the Matriculation Certificate, Passes in:

(i) Advanced Level in Chemistry, and

(ii) two subjects from Physics, Biology, Mathematics, Computer Science, Philosophy, English Language, one of which at Advanced Level and one at Intermediate Level.

Course structure

5. (1) The Course shall extend over a period of five academic years of full-time studies and shall be divided into three parts as follows:

Part One or Preliminary Year (Year 1), Part Two or Intermediate Years (Years II, III & IV) and Part Three or Practice & Specialisation Year (Year V).

(2) The Course shall consist of full-time theoretical and practical training including at least six months of in-service training in a pharmacy open to the public or in a hospital under the supervision of the Pharmaceutical Department of that hospital.

(3) A candidate may not complete the Course earlier than five years or later than seven years from first registration, except in special circumstances with the permission of Senate acting on the advice of the Board.

(4) Each year of the Course shall comprise two semesters of study, and in the first two years of the Course these two semesters shall be followed by a period of not less than eight weeks of supervised practical training.

(5) The training prescribed in paragraph (2) of this regulation shall ensure:

(a) adequate knowledge of medicines and the substances used in the manufacture of medicines;

(b) adequate knowledge of Pharmaceutical Technology and the physical, chemical, biological and microbiological testing of medicinal products;

(c) adequate knowledge of the metabolism and the effects of medicinal products and of the action of toxic substances and of the use of medicinal products;

(d) adequate knowledge to evaluate scientific data concerning medicines in order to be able to supply appropriate information on the basis of this knowledge; and

(e) adequate knowledge of the legal and other requirements associated with the practice of Pharmacy.

(6) The Course shall consist of study-units to which a total of not less than 150 credits shall be assigned in the following:

(a) 107 credits for theoretical and practical training in: Plant and Animal Biology; Physics; General Inorganic and Organic Chemistry; Analytical Chemistry; Pharmaceutical Chemistry including analysis of medicinal products; General and Applied Biochemistry; Anatomy and Physiology; Microbiology; Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy; Pharmaceutical Technology; Toxicology; Pharmacognosy; Legislation and Professional Ethics. The balance between theoretical and practical training shall, in respect of each subject, give sufficient importance to theory to maintain the university character of the training;

(b) optional/elective subjects, to which not more than 8 credits shall be assigned. Of these credits, 3 shall be offered for optional extracurricular activities provided that not more than one credit is awarded per year;

(c) a short report (or project) on an aspect of practical pharmacy approved by the Head of Department to which 20 credits shall be assigned; and

(d) at least six months of in-service training in a pharmacy open to the public or in a hospital under the supervision of the Pharmaceutical Department of that hospital, to which 15 credits shall be assigned.

(7) The Board shall draw up a catalogue which shall include course descriptions of study-units for each year of the Course.The catalogue shall indicate the credits assigned to each study-unit and which units are compulsory. The Board shall publish the catalogue prior to the commencement of each academic year.

(8) The Board may exempt a candidate from the requirement of obtaining a credit if the candidate has obtained from the University, or an institution recognised by Senate for the purpose, a qualification which the Board deems to be at least equivalent in content and standard to that required for the credit concerned.

(9) The Board may allow a candidate to follow study-units in another University or institution of Higher Education, provided that in such instances credits obtained in another institution shall be evaluated according to the criteria established by the Board.

(10) The maximum number of credits from which a candidate may be exempted throughout the Course shall not exceed 24 except by special permission of Senate.

Part One

6. (1) Part One shall consist of study-units to which not less than 30 credits shall be assigned in Plant and Animal Biology, Physics, General and Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, General Biochemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, Mathematical methods and Pharmaceutical Care.

(2) To complete Part One and be eligible to register for Part Two of the Course a candidate must obtain a minimum of 25 credits including all the credits for the study-units indicated by the Board as compulsory and pass the Part One Examination.

Part Two

7. (1) Part Two shall consist of study-units to which not less than 90 credits are assigned in Analytical Chemistry, Medicinal & Pharmaceutical Chemistry including analysis of medicinal products, Applied Biochemistry, Applied Microbiology, Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy, Pharmaceutical Technology, Toxicology, Pharmacognosy, Legislation and Professional Ethics, and Pharmaceutical Care.

(2) Starting from the second year of the Course all candidates shall be required to undertake a Project on an aspect of Practical Pharmacy approved by the Head of Department.

(3) At the beginning of the second semester of the fourth year candidates shall be required to choose the study programme they opt to follow in Part Three of the Course.

(4) To complete Part Two and be eligible to register for Part Three of the Course a candidate must obtain a minimum of 75 credits including all the credits for the study-units indicated by the Board as compulsory and pass the Part Two Examination.

Part Three

8. (1) Part Three shall include study-units in Pharmaceutical Care and continuation and presentation of the Project.

(2) In Part Three of the Course candidates shall also be required to opt to follow the study programme for one of the following streams of specialisation:

(a) Clinical Pharmacy

(b) Pharmaceutical Analysis.

(3) All candidates must undergo at least six months of in-service training in a pharmacy open to the public or in a hospital under the supervision of the Pharmaceutical Department of that hospital.

Project

9. (1) A protocol for the Project must be presented by the beginning of the second semester of the second year.

(2) A progress report on the Project shall be presented by not later than the end of February of the fourth year and the whole report by the end of May of the fifth year.

(3) A summary of the Project shall be presented by February of the fifth year.

Assessment and progress

10. (1) Credits shall be assigned according to the following grades in descending order of merit: A,B,C,D and F where F indicates Fail. The grades shall take into account the candidate's performance in coursework, written tests and examinations as deemed appropriate by the Board. Practical training may be graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

(2) A candidate who fails to obtain a credit for a study-unit shall be allowed to be re-tested once during the same academic year. In the re-assessment, the grade awarded cannot exceed grade D.

(3) A candidate shall not be allowed to proceed to the next year of the course if he fails to obtain the required credits for the units indicated as compulsory by the Board, except with the approval of the Board.

(4) A candidate who fails to satisfy the requirements for proceeding to the next year of the Course shall be allowed to repeat the study programme for the failed year, provided that no candidate may be allowed to repeat a year more than once throughout the whole Course and that no candidate who has repeated a year in the

Course may be allowed to repeat another year, other than the final year, except in extraordinary circumstances with the approval of Senate.

(5) Candidates who are allowed to repeat a year may at the discretion of the Board be exempted from being re-assessed in study-units for which they have obtained a credit during the failed year.

Part One, Part Two and Part Three Examinations

11. (1) Examinations shall be held at the end of Part One, at the end of the final year of Part Two and at the end of Part Three. Candidates may be required to take an oral test or practical session in any of the subjects.

(2) The following provisions shall apply to the Part One Examinations:

(a) the Examination shall consist of not more than six written papers and shall be held at the end of the second semester of the first year of the Course;

(b) a candidate who fails in any of the written papers of the Examination shall be allowed to re-sit the failed paper/s once, normally in September. The maximum grade that can be awarded in a re-sit session shall be the minimum grade D;

(c) a candidate who fails to satisfy the examiners in a re-sit session shall be deemed to have failed the Examination as a whole;

(d) a candidate who fails the Examination may be allowed by the Board to repeat the first year of the Course at the next occasion. No candidate shall be allowed to repeat the Course more than once.

(3) The following provisions shall apply to the Part Two Examinations:

(a) the Examination shall be a synoptic one covering Part Two of the Course and shall consist of not more than eight written papers and it shall be held at the end of the second semester of the final year of Part Two;

(b) there shall be a second session of the Examination in the following September;

(c) to satisfy the Part Two Examination requirement, a candidate must be successful in each component of the examination.

(4) The following provisions shall apply to the Part Three Examinations:

(a) the Examination shall consist of not more than three written papers in Pharmaceutical Care and three written papers in either Clinical Pharmacy or Pharmaceutical Analysis;

(b) a candidate who fails to satisfy the examiners in the Project may at the discretion of the Board be allowed to re-submit the Project by not later than the end of September of that year. If successful, the maximum grade that can be awarded shall be grade D.

(5) In each subject of the Examinations the names of successful candidates shall be published in alphabetical order in each of four groups: A, B,C,and D, according to their standard of merit. A candidate whose name does not appear in any of the four groups shall be considered to have failed the Examination as a whole. The published result of the Examination in each subject shall take into account all parts of the Examination in that subject.

Results and award of Degree

12. (1) To be awarded the Degree a candidate must:

(a) obtain a minimum of 125 credits including a pass in the Project;

(b) pass all Part 1, Part II and Part III Examinations.

(2) The marks allocated for the purposes of the classification of candidates shall be as follows:

30% for course work,
15% for the Project, and
55% for Part I (5%) Part II (20%) and Part III (30%) Examinations.

(3) The names of the candidates who qualify for the award of the Degree or for the B.Pharm. shall be published in alphabetical order according to the following classifications:

First Class Honours
Second Class Honours (Upper Division)
Second Class Honours (Lower Division)
Third Class Honours
Pass without Honours

(4) A separate list shall be published of such candidates who, though not judged as being worthy of Honours, are considered by the examiners of sufficient merit to be awarded a Pass Degree.

(5) No candidate may obtain Honours if he does not pass the Final Examination at the first attempt and within five years of first joining the Course.

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