L.N. 87 of 1992

EDUCATION ACT, 1988

(ACT XXIV OF 1988)

The Course Leading to the Diploma in Nursing or Diploma in Midwifery Regulations, 1992

IN exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 28(5) and 29(6) of the Education Act, 1988, the Chancellor of the University of Malta has promulgated the following regulations made by the Senate of the University of Malta in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by section 33 of the said Act.

Citation

These regulations may be cited as the Regulations for the Course leading to the Diploma in Nursing or Diploma in Midwifery, 1992.

The Course Leading to the Diploma in Nursing or Diploma in Midwifery Regulations, 1992

Citation and interpretation

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the course leading to the Diploma in Nursing and Diploma in Midwifery Regulations, 1992.

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

"The Course" means the Course leading to the Diploma in Nursing or the Diploma in Midwifery.

Applicability

2. These regulations shall apply to Courses starting during the academic years 1990/91 to 1993/94.

Eligibility for Diploma

3. To be eligible for the award of Diploma in Nursing or Diploma in Midwifery a candidate must have:

(a) been registered as a probationary or regular student of the University of Malta in the Institute of Health Care for a minimum period of three and a half years, of which at least two shall be as a regular student;

(b) completed a course of studies and been successful in the examination in accordance with these regulations;

(c) to be in possession of a statement of good conduct as befits a person entitled to use the title 'Nurse' or 'Midwife', which statement must be signed by the Head of the Nursing or Midwifery Studies; and

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

Registration

4. (1) A candidate may be registered as a student in the Course if he:

(a) is aged not less than 17 years within 3 calendar months from the date on which the Course commences;

(b) satisfies the requirements as a probationary or regular student in terms of the Admission Regulations of the University, and if he is a probationary student, satisfies also the entry requirements specified in regulation 5 below;

(c) satisfies the Institute of Health Care that he has the necessary aptitude for nursing or midwifery. The Institute of Health Care may require the candidate to attend an interview/assessment for this purpose.

(2) A candidate must possess a medical certificate as to his suitability for undertaking Nursing/Midwifery duties.

(3) Overseas students, in addition to satisfying the foregoing requirements, must demonstrate proficiency in both written and oral English.

Entry requirements for Probationary Students

5. (1) In order to be admitted as a probationary student in the Course the candidate shall be in possession of one of the following:

(a) six passes at Ordinary Level, including Maltese, English Language, Mathematics and a science subject; or

(b) a certificate from the Prevocational School (Health Studies) with grade C or better in six subjects;

(c) the qualifications for entry of mature students under the Admission Regulations of the University.

(2) Probationary students shall also satisfy the requirements of paragraph (3) of Regulation 4 as regards the English language.

Duration of the Course

6. (1) The Course shall extend over a period of three years and six months. A candidate may not take the final examination earlier than three years and six months or later than four years and six months from the date of the commencement of the Course except with the permission of the Board of the Institute of Health Care.

(2) The Foundation Programme in Nursing and Midwifery comprises the first eighteen months of the Course.

(3) A probationary student who successfully completes the Foundation Programme shall be entitled to be registered as a matriculated student of the University.

(4) Following successful completion of the Foundation Programme students shall continue their studies in either Nursing or Midwifery for a further two years.

Selection of Nursing or Midwifery Diploma

7. (1) Students shall enroll to study Nursing or Midwifery at the commencement of the Course.

(2) Students shall not be allowed to change direction from Nursing to Midwifery or vice versa after the commencement of Module IV without the written recommendation of the Head of Nursing Studies to the Board of the Institute of Health Care who may grant permission. Students shall be required to complete the relevant modules following such a change.

Foundation Programme

8. (1) During the Foundation Programme of the Course students shall be prepared in the fundamental knowledge, skills and attitudes inherent in the practice of Nursing or Midwifery. Students shall also be prepared for their subsequent professional and academic development.

(2) The Course shall consist of modules, each of which shall have a theoretical and clinical component and shall concentrate on an area of Nursing/ Midwifery practice.

(3) Students shall be assessed in both theory and practice of Nursing or Midwifery by continuous assessment.

(4) Clinical practice shall be assessed by nursing/midwifery teachers or clinical nurses/midwives from relevant areas of practice.

Successful Completion of the Foundation Programme

9. (1) To complete the Foundation Programme successfully and continue the Course, the student shall obtain the following:

(a) A pass grade in the theoretical assessments with an average grade of C;

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

(c) A pass in the Foundation Programme Comprehensive Examination.

(2) A student who fails to obtain a pass grade in not more than two assessments under either sub-paragraph (a) or (b) of paragraph (1) of this regulation, or under both such sub-paragraphs, shall be entitled to repeat such assessments once only at the end of the Foundation Programme. If successful in the resit, the grade to be given shall be the pass grade D. A student who fails to obtain a pass grade in any assessment which he has repeated shall not be allowed to continue the Course except in special circumstances and with the permission of the Board of the Insitute of Health Care.

(3) A student who obtains a pass grade in all assessments under sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (1) of this regulation but does not obtain an average grade of C shall be entitled to repeat, once only, at the end of the Foundation Programme, any number of assessments he wishes, and if be obtains an average grade of C, having

regard to both the first and second occasion, he shall be entitled to continue the Course as of right. If he fails to obtain the average grade as above, he shall not be allowed to continue the Course except with the permission of the Institute of Health Care.

(4) A student who fails the Comprehensive Examination shall be required to resit the examination on one occasion only normally within three months of completing the Foundation Programme.

Diploma Programme

10. (1) Following the Foundation Programme there shall be a further two years study for the obtainment of the Diploma in Nursing or Diploma in Midwifery according to the Course of studies followed.

(2) The Diploma Programme shall consist of two elements:

(a) Professional Studies — study-units at diploma level concerned with either Nursing or Midwifery theory and practice;

(b) Diploma Studies — study-units of behavioural and biomedical sciences and professional knowledge applicable to both Nursing and Midwifery students.

DIPLOMA IN NURSING

Professional Studies

11. (1) Professional studies are set out in modules of learning.

(2) Each module shall be considered a discrete study-unit incorporating a theoretical and a clinical component.

(3) The Head of Nursing/Midwifery Studies shall decide the sequence of modules a student may take.

Theoretical Component

12. (1) Each nursing module is assigned a specific number of theoretical credits.

(2) There are 27 theoretical credits assigned to professional nursing studies.

(3) Subjects covered within each module are interrelated and will therefore be assessed as one unit of learning.

(4) On completion of a module the student will be awarded a grade indicating the standard attained by the student in the theoretical assessments. The grades are as follows:

A Excellent
B Very Good Pass
C Good Pass
D Pass
F Fail.

(5) A student is allowed to re-take the appropriate assessments once if he fails a module. If successful in the re-take, the grade to be given is D. If unsuccessful, the student shall be entitled to repeat the whole module on only one occasion at the end of the Course. Students who fail the module at the second attempt will not be allowed to continue the Course except in special circumstances and with the permission of the Board of the Institute of Health Care. Only one module may be repeated.

(6) A student who fails to achieve a pass grade in two modules shall not be allowed to continue the Course except in special circumstances and with the permission of the Board of the Institute of Health Care.

Clinical Component

13. (1) The clinical component of the diploma element of the Course shall consist of study-units of clinical practice for which not less than 28 clinical nursing credits shall be assigned.

(2) Students will be required to undergo clinical placements in areas specified by the Board of the Institute of Health Care in the sequence specified by such Board.

(3) Successful completion of a clinical study-unit will be determined by intermittent continuous assessment.

(4) Students who fail a clinical module shall be entitled to repeat the module on only one occasion at the end of the Course.

(5) Students who fail more than one clinical module in any one year shall not be allowed to continue the Course or be eligible to sit for the final comprehensive examination except in special circumstances and with the permission of the Board of the Institute of Health Care.

Professional Competence

14. Students shall not be allowed to take the final comprehensive examination unless they have achieved the competence of a Registered Nurse, that is to:

(a) demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the health and sickness requirements of individuals and of groups in a particular area of practice;

(b) recognise common factors which contribute to and those which adversely affect physical, mental and social well-being of patients or clients and take appropriate action;

(c) identify the social and health implications of physical and mental handicap or disease, and pregnancy and child-bearing, for the individual, his friends, family and community;

(d) demonstrate knowledge of the normal development of the foetus, the infant, the child, the adolescent and the young, middle-aged and elderly adult;

(e) demonstrate an appreciation of research and use relevant literature and research as an aid to practice;

(f) demonstrate professional accountability and commitment to continuing education and development;

(g) demonstrate an awareness of social and political factors which relate to health care;

(h) demonstrate knowledge and understanding to meet the requirements of legislation which is relevant to his practice;

(i) recognise and uphold the personal and confidential rights of patients and clients;

(j) develop helpful caring relationships with patients, clients and their families or friends; initiate, continue and complete therapeutic relationships with patients using appropriate inter-personal and communcation skills;

(k) identify the health-related learning needs of patients, clients, family or friends and participate in health promotion/education;

(l) demonstrate an awareness of the roles of individual members of the team who provide aspects of patient/client care, function efficiently in a team and assist in a multi-disciplinary approach where appropriate;

(m) assign appropriate work to helpers and provide supervision, and monitoring of assigned work;

(n) identify physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of the patient or client; be aware of and value the concept of individualised care, devise a plan of care, contribute to its implementation and evaluation by demonstrating an appreciation and practice of the principles of a problem solving approach;

(o) enable patients or clients as appropriate to progress from varying degrees of dependence to maximum independence, or to a peaceful death.

DIPLOMA IN MIDWIFERY

Professional Studies

15. (1) Professional studies are set out in themes which shall be taken concurrently.

(2) Each of the themes shall have a theoretical and a clinical component.

(3) The Head of Nursing/Midwifery Studies shall decide the sequence of themes a student may take.

Theoretical Component

16. (1) Each theme shall have a number of study-units, each of which shall be assigned a specific number of credits.

(2) 27 theoretical credits shall be assigned to professional Midwifery studies.

(3) On completion of a credit the student shall be awarded a grade indicating the standard attained by the student in the theoretical assessments. The grades shall be as follows:

A Excellent
B Very Good Pass
C Good Pass
D Pass
F Fail

(4) A candidate shall be allowed to re-take the assessments/tests once only if she fails a credit. If she is successful in the re-take, the grade to be given shall be D. If she is unsuccessful, the candidate shall be required to repeat the whole credit and be eligible on successful completion to grade D.

(5) A student who in any year fails to obtain 80% or more of the credits assigned shall not be allowed to continue the Course or to take the final comprehensive examination except in special circumstances and with the premission of the Board of the Institute of Health Care.

Clinical Component

17. (1) The clinical component of the Course shall consist of clinical placements for which not less than 28 credits shall be assigned.

(2) Clinical placements shall be specified by the Head of Nursing/Midwifery Studies. They shall allow flexibility in instances when the learning needs of the student will be better served.

(3) A student will be required to keep a record of clinical practice which must be signed by her supervisor.

(4) Successful completion of a clinical study-unit shall be determined by continous assessment.

(5) Students who fail to reach an overall pass grade in clinical practice at the end of each diploma year will be allowed to complete the Course or to take the final comprehensive examination only in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Board of the Institute of Health Care.

Professional Competence

18. A student shall not be allowed to take the final comprehensive examination unless she has achieved the competence of a Registered Midwife, that is to:

(a) advise on the promotion of health;

(b) recognise the physical, emotional and social situations which may influence the health and well-being of the mother and baby;

(c) assess, plan and implement care within the sphere of practice of a midwife to meet the physical, emotional, educational and social needs of the mother, baby and family;

(d) take action on her own responsibility in initiating the action of other disciplines and seeking assistance when required;

(e) interpret and undertake care prescribed by a registered medical practitioner;

(f) demonstrate effective communication with mothers, relatives, colleagues and other disciplines;

(g) demonstrate an awareness of a research based practice;

(h) work in a multi-disciplinary team with an understanding of the role of all members;

(i) assign appropriate work to helpers and provide supervision and monitoring of assigned work.

DIPLOMA STUDIES (NURSING AND MIDWIFERY STUDENTS)

Diploma Studies

19. (1) Diploma Studies shall comprise biomedical and behavioural sciences and professional studies applicable to both nursing and midwifery students.

(2) Diploma Studies shall link in with the Professional Studies and sessions shared with other students where appropriate. One day per week shall be set aside for this purpose.

(3) Diploma Studies shall consist of study-units for which 33 credits shall be assigned.

(4) The Board of the Institute of Health Care shall decide which credits a candidate may take and in what sequence, in order to complete the course.

(5) On completion of a credit the student shall be awarded a grade indicating the standard attained by the student in the credit assessments. Grades are as follows:

A Excellent
B Very Good Pass
C Good Pass
D Pass
F Fail.

(6) A student shall be allowed to re-take an assessment once only if he fails a credit. If he is successful in the re-take, the grade to be given shall be D. If he is unsuccessful, the student shall be required to repeat the whole credit and be eligible on successful completion to grade D.

(7) A candidate who in any one year fails to obtain 80% of the total number of credits will not be allowed to continue the course or to take the final comprehensive examination except in special circumstances and with the permission of the Board of the Institute of Health Care.

Completion of the Course

20. (1) To complete the Course, a candidate must obtain the following:

(a) pass at grade C or above in the Foundation Programme;
(b) 27 Professional credits (Nursing or Midwifery);
(c) 33 Diploma credits;
(d) 28 Clinical Nursing credits or 28 Clinical Midwifery credits;
(e) other theoretical or clinical nursing credits as from time to time required to comply with the European Community Directives on Nursing and Midwifery Education.

(2) The Board of the Institute of Health Care may exempt a candidate from the requirement of obtaining a credit certificate for a particular unit if he has obtained from the University, or an institution recognised by the Senate for the purpose, a qualification the study for which is, in the opinion of the Board, equivalent in content and standard to that required for the credit certificate concerned. Candidates may only be exempted from up to one fifth of the theoretical component.

Final Comprehensive Examination

21. (1) A candidate shall be required to sit for the final comprehensive examination after obtaining the requirements laid down in regulation 20.

(2) At the end of the Course of studies, a candidate will be required to take the final comprehensive examination in two comprehensive papers (in the same session) relevant to their course of studies and present a project as follows:

(a) Paper I: Theory and Practice of Nursing or Midwifery, as the case may require;

(b) Paper II: Professional Development and Management (related to either Nursing or Midwifery, as the case may require);

(c) Special Project Related to Nursing or Midwifery, as the case may require.

(3) A candidate may also be required to take an oral examination at which he shall be expected to discuss aspects of the special project.

(4) The final comprehensive examination shall be set by the Board of the Institute of Health Care and shall normally take place during the last week of the Course.

(5) The overall evaluation of the candidate for the Diploma in Nursing or Diploma in Midwifery shall take into account his performance at the final comprehensive examination as well as the credit certificates and grades obtained during his Course of studies.

(6) A candidate who fails in only one paper shall be allowed a resit in that paper. A candidate who fails more than one paper shall be required to resit the whole examination, at a time established by the Board of the Institute of Health Care.

(7) A candidate will only be allowed three attempts at the final comprehensive examination.

Results

22. (1) The names of candidates who qualify for the award of the Diploma in Nursing or the Diploma in Midwifery shall be published in three categories (Distinction, Credit and Pass), in alphabetical order.

(2) A candidate who is allowed to resit part or all of the final comprehensive examination shall be eligible only for the category Pass.

Ippubblikat mid-Dipartiment ta' l-Informazzjoni – Kastilja — *Published by the Department of Information – Castille*
Mitbugħ fl-Istamperija tal-Gvern — *Printed at the Government Printing Press*

Prezz 6c — *Price 6c*