

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF NURSING (MNurs)**

*(See also General Regulations)*

---

### **N30 Definition**

The degree of Master of Nursing (MNurs) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of the programme of 2 calendar years or equivalent in the Department of Nursing Studies, Faculty of Medicine.

---

### **N31 Admission requirements**

To be eligible for admission to the programme leading to the degree of Master of Nursing, candidates:

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall be Registered Nurses holding Bachelor's degree in nursing from this University, or from another university, or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) shall be eligible for active nursing registration with the Nursing Council of Hong Kong, or its equivalent;
- (d) shall normally have completed a minimum of two years' experience as a registered nurse; and
- (e) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

Exemption from certain requirements may be considered in special cases.

---

### **N32 Qualifying examination**

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the modules of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
  - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
- 

### **N33 Award of degree**

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Nursing, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations; and
- (b) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

Candidates who have successfully completed six core and four elective modules as prescribed in the syllabuses before the second semester of Year II of study and do not wish to proceed to take up the rest of the MNurs curriculum may be considered for the award a Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (PDipNurs).

---

### **N34 Length of curriculum**

The curriculum shall extend over not less than two calendar years of part-time study, with a minimum of 400 hours of prescribed work.

Candidates may choose to exit the programme after having successfully completed 200 hours of study and be considered for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (PDipNurs). Holders of the PDipNurs may apply to re-enter the MNurs programme after a break of at least one year from exiting the programme.

---

### **N35 Completion of curriculum**

- (a) To complete the curriculum, candidates:
- (i) shall follow instruction in the syllabus prescribed for the module and complete satisfactorily all required written, practical or clinical work;
  - (ii) shall satisfy the examiners in the module by continuous assessments and/or written examinations, and
  - (iii) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation/clinical practicum on an approved project.
- The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination.
- (b) Candidates who fail to fulfil the requirements within the prescribed maximum period of study shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provision of General Regulation G12, except that candidates who are unable because of illness or circumstances beyond their control to complete the requirements within the prescribed maximum period of study, may apply for permission to extend their period of studies.
- 

### **N36 Module Selection**

Selection of study patterns shall be made in consultation with the candidate's Academic Advisor and be subject to the approval of the Department of Nursing Studies.

---

### **N37 Examinations**

- (a) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in a module of instruction may be permitted:
- i) to attend a supplementary examination; or
  - ii) to repeat the module or modules of instruction in the following academic year and to re-take the prescribed examination or examinations; or
  - iii) to re-take the prescribed examination or examinations in the following academic year without repeating the module or modules of instruction; or
  - iv) to undertake the study of an alternative module or modules of instruction in the following academic year and to take the prescribed examination or examinations.
- (b) Candidates who are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination in any subject or subjects in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under General Regulation G12.
- 

### **N38 Examination results**

At the conclusion of the examination, a list of successful candidates shall be published.

---

### **N39 Publication based on work approved**

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

## **SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF NURSING**

The Master of Nursing programme consists of 6 core modules (120 hours), 4 elective modules (80 hours) and either a clinical practicum (200 hours) or dissertation (200 hours), making a total of 400 hours.

### **CORE MODULES**

Students are required to take six core modules, normally five in their first year of study and one in the second year. Each of the core modules consists of 20 hours of study, thus, six core modules amount to 120 hours of study.

Students who are oriented to advanced practice role are required to take the following as the core modules:

NURS7101	Philosophy & Science of Nursing
NURS7102	Research Methods for Health Professionals
NURS7103	Health Maintenance and Promotion
NURS7105	Advanced Health Assessment
NURS7104	Pathophysiology
NURS8101	Pharmacotherapeutics

Students who are oriented to health services development and planning role are required to take the following as the core modules:

NURS7101	Philosophy & Science of Nursing
NURS7102	Research Methods for Health Professionals
NURS7103	Health Maintenance and Promotion
CMED7101	Epidemiology and Critical Appraisal
CMED8101	Health Policy
CMED7102	Health Services Management

Syllabuses are as follows:

### **NURS7105 Advanced Health Assessment**

Topics include interview and health history; assessment of growth and development; physical assessment techniques; general survey; assessment across the life span; family, culture and environmental assessment; community assessment; application of the principles and practice of advanced health assessment to student's own specialty.

### **CMED7101 Epidemiology and Critical Appraisal**

Topics include critical appraisal, meta-analysis and causality; descriptive epidemiology: person, place and time; epidemiology: definitions, uses, concepts of health, disease and risk factors; measurements: rates, proportions, variation, validity and reliability; screening, prevention and evaluation; sources of information and vital statistics; study designs in epidemiology.

### **NURS7103 Health Maintenance and Promotion**

Topics include community diversity, demography, and epidemiology; theories/models of health promotion; needs assessment; health promotion intervention and evaluation for individuals, families, communities; ethical dilemmas in practice.

**CMED8101 Health Policy**

Topics include abnormal economics in the health sector; central planning and internal markets (UK); economic analysis and major issues in health policy; managed competition and managed care (US); mandated insurance system with global budget (Germany); medical savings accounts (Singapore); social insurance system with global budget (Canada); system structure for the health sector; transformation of market structure and competition (HK).

---

**CMED7102 Health Services Management**

Topics include organizational and management theory, role of operations management including understanding and evaluating operational performance, operational strategy and productivity analysis.

---

**NURS7104 Pathophysiology**

Topics include principles of pathophysiology, application in health evaluation, promotion and restoration; application of the principles and practice of advanced health assessment to student's own specialty.

---

**NURS7101 Philosophical & Science of Nursing**

Topics include history and philosophy of science; logical reasoning; theory development, analysis, and evaluation; nursing theory development; feminist critical theory, cultural theory.

---

**NURS8101 Pharmacotherapeutics**

Topics include drug receptors and pharmacodynamics; pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics; biotransformation; autonomic drugs; cardiovascular drugs; renal drugs; drugs affecting smooth muscle; drugs affecting the CNS; drug treatment of hematological disorders, inflammation and gout; endocrine drugs; chemotherapeutic drugs; toxicology; geriatric pharmacology; perinatal and pediatric pharmacology; dermatologic drugs; GI drugs; over the counter medications; antibiotics, vaccines, immune globulins; psychotropic medications; drug interactions; application of the principles and practice of advanced health assessment to student's own specialty.

---

**NURS7102 Research Methods for Health Professionals**

Topics includes philosophic dimensions and processes of quantitative and qualitative research; research design; research control; sampling designs; data collection methods; reliability and validity in quantitative and qualitative research; triangulation.

---

**ELECTIVE MODULES**

Students are required to take four elective modules, normally three in their first year of study and one in the second year. They may choose from the core modules reserved for the other group; or they may select modules from the list of elective modules. Each elective module consists of 20 hours of study, so four elective modules amount to 80 hours of study. Elective modules are offered subject to availability and minimum student number. Syllabuses are as follows:

**NURS8206 Advanced Data Analysis and Management**

Descriptive and inferential statistics; advanced statistical procedures; content/textual analysis, analytic induction, hermeneutic analysis, constant comparison, phenomenological analysis; SPSS, NUD.IST, ethnograph.

---

**NURS8207 Advanced Practice in Public Health Nursing: Assessment of Aggregate Need**

Public health nursing practice within the primary health care model. Analysis of the Hong Kong health care system and its relationship to public health nursing practice. Analysis of the theoretical and empirical basis for public health nursing practice. In depth study of a target group of interest (i.e., adolescents, elderly or a geographical community) including analysis of empirical data on health indices, in-depth assessment of risks to health, identification of health needs, effective nursing practice interventions, resources available in the community, etc.

---

**NURS7204 Advanced Practice Roles**

Topics include history of advanced practice nursing; roles of advanced practitioners; power, legal and ethical issues; scope and standards; credentialing and certification.

---

**NURS8208 Challenges in Mental Health: The Caring Perspective**

Ideologies in mental health. Caring and being care for interprofessional relationship. Towards collaborative caring. Power and the therapeutic process. Coercion and control. Autonomy in mental health. Service planning in mental health. Mental health nurse as an advanced practitioner. Working with mentally retarded clients. Working with aged clients. Working with the families.

---

**NURS8209 Clinical Decision Making in Nursing**

Theory and processes of clinical decision making. Decision analysis and decision tree. Nursing clinical judgment. Problem solving in clinical practice. Clinical guidelines. Current research on clinical decision making. Factors impacting on clinical decision making. Principles for making difficult decisions in difficult times. Assessing and self-monitoring of clinical decision making. Developing differential diagnoses.

---

**NURS8210 Comparative Health Systems: Hong Kong**

Aging, nursing, and medicine in Hong Kong: Valuing and evaluating collaborative health care. Levels of prevention and theories of aging in research and care. Marco-level deconstruction of health care systems: Making sense of financing, policy, and regulation in relation to ethics, morals, and professional values in health care delivery across societies. Projecting the future: Research, practice, and education through the participants eyes.

---

**NURS8201 Concepts and Application of Chinese Medicine**

Topics include philosophical foundations of Chinese medicine; history and development of Chinese medicine; drug absorption, distribution, transformation and elimination of related Chinese medicine; current research in Chinese herbal medicine; application of Chinese medicine in nursing.

**PHYO6200 Concepts of Human Physiology**

Topics include brain and behaviour; general principles of endocrine physiology; homeostasis and concept of control system; motor co-ordination; nutrition and energy balance; physiological signals; respiratory physiology; sensation and perception; the heart and the circulatory system; the internal environment and regulation of body fluid.

---

**NURS8211 Contemporary Patient Education: Theory, Research and Practice**

Philosophy of patient education. Theories and models for patient teaching. Integration of cultural systems and beliefs. Learning needs assessment. Planning patient education. Educational interventions for patients and families. Evaluating patient outcomes for individuals and groups. Issues in patient and family education. Research in patient education.

---

**NURS7205 Curriculum Development**

Topics include curriculum development history and concepts, approaches to curriculum development, contemporary designs for curriculum development, strategic planning in education, collecting and assessing data for curriculum development, philosophical basis for content determination, content decision, setting criteria, goals and objectives for curriculum, approaches, techniques and strategies for establishing curriculum content and materials, strategies for teaching groups and individuals, project program cost, planning for assessment, framework and instruments for assessment, curriculum evaluation, maintenance and enhancement.

---

**CMED8201 Evaluation of Health Programmes and Health Economics**

Topics include analysing quantitative and qualitative data; cost effectiveness and cost benefit evaluation; critical appraisal exercise and tutorial; designing questionnaires, experimental and quasi-experimental designs; economic evaluation and analyzing costs; framing objectives, quantitative and qualitative approaches to evaluation; measuring outcomes, survey methods; Principal types of evaluation, including economic evaluation; sampling, validity and reliability.

---

**NURS7203 Family Nursing**

A systemic belief approach to families experiencing health problems. How health care professionals can explore with the family their meaning of health. How the family maintains health and negotiates changes in family functioning as a result of a health problem. Assessment and intervention strategies derived from family therapy, cybernetics and nursing theory.

---

**NURS8202 Gerontology for Advanced Practice**

Topics include gerontology as a specialty, evaluate theories of ageing, research methods appropriate for Gerontological Studies, health promotion and disease prevention for older adults, and aspects of ageing, related nursing theories, family theories, family and community attitudes, personal and cultural influences, hospice movement, and end of life issues and concerns.

**NURS8203 Health Services Planning**

Topics included theories and approaches to strategic planning, strategic planning model, mission formulation, roles of staff planner and consultant, environmental scanning, implementation consideration, performance audit, gap analysis, contingency planning, action planning, concepts of planning, implementation of plan, monitoring, evaluation, and accountability in planning, planning, developing and evaluating grant proposals.

---

**NURS8204 Instructional Design for Health Professionals**

Topics include learning theory, instructional theory and psychoeducational design; teaching/learning strategies; designing instructional systems for Chinese learners; models for relating research, development and practice.

---

**NURS7201 Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing**

Topics include relationship between health and morality; ethical theories, principles and rules; the legal system of the Hong Kong SAR; regulation of the nursing profession in Hong Kong; personal and professional beliefs, attitudes and value systems; paradigm cases that influence ethical decision making; models of ethical decision making; use of the nursing process in ethical decision making; obstacles to moral reasoning and ethical practice; strategies which facilitate the development of moral reasoning and ethical practice.

---

**NURS8212 Mentoring for Health Care Professionals**

Concept and context of mentoring. Mentoring in the healthcare context. Health care professionals as mentors and mentees. Benefits of mentoring and enhancing strategies. Pitfalls and how to avoid. Process of effective mentoring. Developing guidelines and strategies for mentoring. Mentor-mentee relationship. Working with mentees as adult learners. Developing a mentoring programme in health care. Anticipating problems with implementing and maintaining a mentoring programme. An evaluation of mentoring in action.

---

**PHAR6100 Principles of Drug Action**

Topics include drug interactions; immunochemical basis of drug allergy; mechanism of drug resistance; molecular mechanisms of drug-receptor interaction; Pharmacogenetic basis of drug idiosyncrasy; the adverse effects of drugs and the mechanisms responsible; the development of drug tolerance and physical dependence; the fate of drugs in the body their absorption, distribution, excretion and metabolism; the theoretical basis of dose-response relations.

---

**NURS8213 SARS and Advanced Practice Nursing**

Epidemiological, clinical management and laboratory findings on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), WHO Alert & Response Operations, local and global control strategies, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nursing diagnosis and management of patients with SARS, precautionary measures in hospitals, community and at home, post-discharge care of SARS patients, research relevant to SARS and SARS nursing, role of advanced practice nurse in comprehensive event management for SARS outbreak.

**NURS8205 Tobacco Dependency Nursing Intervention and Management**

Topics include the worldwide tobacco epidemic; the politics of tobacco control; the health consequences of active and passive smoking; tobacco control and prevention programmes in Hong Kong; nicotine dependence and addiction theory; benefits of smoking cessation; stages of readiness to change and its application to treatment; pharmacological interventions and the types and use of nicotine replacement therapy; brief and intensive behavioural interventions for smoking cessation; relapse prevention; motivational interviewing; and international smoking cessation clinical practice guidelines.

---

**NURS7206 Women's Health Issues**

Topics include gender & cultural issues; violence against women – battered women, sexual violence against women; sexual violence against women discussion.

---

**CLINICAL PRACTICUM/DISSERTATION**

Students are required to choose either the clinical practicum or dissertation option. The clinical practicum consists of 200 hours and is made up of three components: Clinical Practicum I, Clinical Practicum II, Clinical Practicum III, which are designed to help students to approach the clinical practicum in a planned and systematic manner. The dissertation represents 200 hours of work and students may undertake an empirical study or conduct a systematic review of the literature. The dissertation is made up of three components: Dissertation I, Dissertation II and Dissertation III, which are designed to help students to systematically plan and conduct their research study. Syllabuses are as follows:

---

**NURS7301 Clinical Practicum I**

Clinical Practicum I represents the negotiation process, during which the student will work towards and establish a learning contract. The process involves the student negotiating with his/her clinical agency, which would lead to the signing of an agreement of the learning contract between the student, preceptor (from the clinical agency) and clinical practicum supervisor (from the Department of Nursing Studies).

---

**NURS8301 Clinical Practicum II**

Clinical Practicum II represents the developmental process of the clinical practicum experience. The purpose of which is to enable the student to develop what has been agreed in his/her learning contract. Collaboration between the student, preceptor and clinical practicum supervisor is essential to facilitate the necessary development.

---

**NURS8302 Clinical Practicum III**

Clinical Practicum III represents the implementation and evaluation process. During CPIII, student would implement his/her learning contract and evaluate its effectiveness with the support and supervision of the preceptor and clinical practicum supervisor as guided by the protocol-based clinical supervision agreement.



**NURS7302 Dissertation I**

Depending on the learning task intended (empirical research or systematic review), there would be negotiation between the student and his/her dissertation supervisor. Research questions are developed or preparation is undertaken for conducting a systematic review.

---

**NURS8303 Dissertation II**

This involves the development of specific skills required to develop the proposed research study or systematic review.

---

**NURS8304 Dissertation III**

Student undertakes an empirical study or conducts a systematic review, under the supervision of his/her dissertation supervisor.

---

For students who will exit at the Postgraduate Diploma level, they are required to take six core modules and four elective modules as prescribed in the above syllabuses, amounting to 200 hours of study.