

**REGULATIONS FOR THE  
POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY  
(PCPsycho-oncology)**

*(See also General Regulations)*

---

**M.121 Admission requirements**

To be eligible for admission to the programme leading to the Postgraduate Certificate in Psycho-oncology, a candidate shall:

- (a) possess the relevant necessary requirements which comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) hold a Bachelor's degree with honours or the degrees of MBBS of this University, or another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
  - (c) obtain a score of 550 or above in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), within two years before submission of the application, if seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a University or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English; and
  - (d) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.
- 

**M.122 Qualifying examination**

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's formal academic achievement or his/her ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
  - (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he or she has satisfied the examiners in the examination.
- 

**M.123 Award of certificate**

To be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Psycho-oncology, a candidate shall:

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

**M.124 Length of curriculum**

The curriculum shall extend over not less than one academic year of part-time study, with a minimum of 100 hours prescribed work.

Holders of the Postgraduate Certificate in Psycho-oncology awarded by this University may apply for admission to the Master of Public Health programme after a break of at least one year and not more than five years from graduating from the Postgraduate Certificate.

---

**M.125 Completion of curriculum**

To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall:

- (a) follow instruction in the syllabus prescribed for the programme and complete satisfactorily all required written, practical or clinical work; and
- (b) satisfy the examiners in the modules by continuous assessments and/or written examinations.

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 to the Board of Studies for permission to extend their period of studies.

---

### **M.126 Module selection**

Selection of modules shall be made within the curriculum structure delineated for each concentration, in consultation with the taught course co-ordinator and subject to the approval of the Board of Studies.

---

### **M.127 Examinations**

- (a) A candidate who failed to satisfy the examiners in a module may be permitted:
    - (i) to attend a supplementary examination; or
    - (ii) to re-take the concentration module and the prescribed examination(s).
  - (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.
  - (c) Candidates who failed to satisfy the examiners in a second attempt in the modules shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.
- 

### **M.128 Examination results**

At the conclusion of the examination a pass list shall be published. A distinction may be awarded to candidates who have demonstrated outstanding performance in the programme.

---

## **SYLLABUS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY**

*Candidates must choose the 3 core modules listed below:*

### **MODULE 1 – CMED 6701 Fundamental psychosocial aspects of cancer (20 hours)**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to some core topics in understanding of the roles of psychological and social processes in relation to health and illness. This course will illustrate the interactions between cognition, behaviour, social environment, health and illness.

### **MODULE 2 – CMED 6206 Health promotion and health education (20 hours)**

This course will be organized into two sections. The first section will provide students with a broad definition and understanding of health and health promotion at the individual, small group, community, and societal levels. Students will examine different theoretical models for health promotion in terms of their different aims, methods, and means of evaluation. A major emphasis is to critically examine the influences of socioeconomic environment on health and health promotion. The second section will focus on identifying and analyzing opportunities for and barriers to promoting health and wellness among individuals and population. Students will assess and evaluate a variety of approaches and actions that form the basis of a strategic operation for promoting individual and population health. (Students registering for the MPH in Psycho-oncology will focus on health promotion targets in cancer prevention and health promotion in cancer sufferers.)

**MODULE 3 – CMED 6703 Psychological aspects in the management of common clinical problems (20 hours)**

This module examines common problems in cancer treatment, such as nausea, fatigue and depression, and applies evidence-based psychological and nursing approaches to their management. These include decision-making, relaxation training, exercise, providing support for individuals, families and groups.

*Candidates are required to choose 2 of these elective modules listed below:*

**MODULE 4 – CMED 6706 Clinical interpersonal skills (20 hours)**

This is a practical module. Students will focus on improving their interpersonal skills in regard to asking questions, handling questions and giving information, especially for decision-making, emotions, offering support, breaking bad news, through a series of role-play and other skills training techniques.

**MODULE 5 – CMED 6705 Clinical practicum (20 hours)**

This module provides an opportunity to clinicians to have ongoing discussion and on-site training in their clinical work. Weekly meetings will centre around discussion of patient problems and their resolution. The aim will be to link the theoretical aspects of psycho-oncology with direct patient management. The practicum placement will be in the student's normal place of work to avoid logistic difficulties. Where necessary, a small number of students could be placed under supervision of course faculty, but this would be avoided wherever possible.

**MODULE 6 – CMED 6200 Epidemiology and critical appraisal (20 hours)**

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

**MODULE 7 – CMED 6205 Epidemiology of important health conditions (20 hours)**

Tobacco-related diseases, cancer and chronic disease, infectious disease, lifestyle factors (smoking, alcohol, diet, exercise) and health, pollution and health, accidents and injury, occupational hazards and diseases, psychological factors and health.

**MODULE 8 – CMED 6400 Evidence-based practice: an introduction to clinical epidemiology and decision analysis (20 hours)**

Evidence-based practice (EBP) – What is it and why?; Where is the evidence? Searching the evidence-based literature; What should we do with the evidence? The EBP toolbox; Is the evidence valid? Critical appraisal of the evidence (diagnosis and screening); Is the evidence valid? Critical appraisal of the evidence (therapy); Is the evidence valid? Critical appraisal of the evidence (prognosis); How do we deal with different pieces of evidence? Systematic reviews and meta-analyses; How can we disseminate the evidence? Clinical practice guidelines and consensus statements; Does EBP matter in Hong Kong? EBP and knowledge management in the Hospital Authority; Are we practising according to the evidence? Evaluation of personal and programme performance.

**MODULE 9 – CMED 6702 Palliative care and bereavement (20 hours)**

This module examines common problems encountered by patients during treatment and applies an evidence-based approach for understanding their impact. This module also looks at the role of palliative care approaches in bereavement.

**MODULE 10 – CMED 6300 Research methods in health care (20 hours)**

Principal types of research methods used in evaluation and audit; framing objectives, quantitative and qualitative approaches to evaluation; survey methods; designing questionnaires; sampling, validity, and reliability; measuring outcomes; using examples from health care and health programme evaluation.