

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; and
- (d) 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.
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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.
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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.
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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 any six of the following core modules:

NURS7101	Philosophy & Science of Nursing
NURS7102	Research Methods for Health Professionals
NURS7103	Health Maintenance and Promotion
NURS8210	Comparative Health Systems: Hong Kong
NURS7106	Epidemiology and Critical Appraisal
CMED8101	Health Care Systems and Policy
CMED7102	Health Services Management

Students who are oriented to public health nursing track are required to take any six of the following core modules (applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2005-2006 and thereafter):

NURS7101	Philosophy & Science of Nursing
NURS7102	Research Methods for Health Professionals
NURS7103	Health Maintenance and Promotion
NURS8210	Comparative Health Systems: Hong Kong
NURS7106	Epidemiology and Critical Appraisal
CMED8101	Health Care Systems and Policy
NURS8207	Advanced Practice in Public Health Nursing: Assessment of Aggregate Need

Students who are oriented to paediatric nursing track are required to take the following as the core modules (applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2006-2007 and thereafter):

NURS7101	Philosophy & Science of Nursing
NURS7102	Research Methods for Health Professionals
NURS7103	Health Maintenance and Promotion
NURS7106	Epidemiology and Critical Appraisal
NURS8216	Child Health Nursing
NURS8217	Paediatric Critical Care

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.

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.

NURS8216 Child Health Nursing

Topics include overview of child health nursing, developmental health assessment, nutrition and growth, parenting, child protection and safety, pain management, paediatric problems and rehabilitation.

NURS8210 Comparative Health Systems: Hong Kong

Aging, nursing, and medicine in Hong Kong, Public health and aging – US and HK comparison, Elder care delivery, Deconstructing health care systems, financing, care delivery and outcomes, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Allopathic integration.

NURS7106 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.

CMED8101 Health Care Systems and 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).

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.

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.

NURS8217 Paediatric Critical Care

Topics include principle & management in mechanical ventilation (respiratory assessment), parenteral nutrition & central line care, CPR workshop, transport of critically child, physical development and nursing assessment of newborn, management of high-risk infant, congenital malformations, neonatal complication, cardiac-thoracic surgeries, paediatric trauma (GCS, Neuro-surgical management), renal replacement therapy & fluid electrolyte balance and organ transplantation.

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.

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.

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.

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.

NURS8214 Advanced Practice in Infectious Disease Management

(Applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2005-2006 and thereafter)

Role of advanced practice nurses in the management, control and prevention of infectious diseases in hospitals and the community; infectious diseases update; emerging infectious; evidence-based practice in infectious disease management; investigation of outbreaks.

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

(Not applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2005-2006 and thereafter who are oriented to public health nursing track)

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.

NURS8218 Analysing Qualitative Data

(Applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2006-2007 and thereafter)

Topics include typology of qualitative analysis techniques; methods of analysing words or phrases including techniques for systematic elicitation and analysing data for cultural domains; methods of analysing texts including tasks associated with and major traditions of coding; tactics for generating meaning; tactics for testing or confirming findings; ethical issues in analysis; software tools for qualitative data analysis.

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.

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.

NURS8219 Designing and Conducting Health Surveys

(Applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2006-2007 and thereafter)

Topics include survey objectives, defining survey variables, methods of data collection, sampling, question design and response format, questionnaire design and format, preparation for data analysis and carrying out the survey.

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.

NURS8220 Evidence Based Practice

(Applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2006-2007 and thereafter)

Topics include integration of the research evidence, clinical expertise and patient preference, evidence based decision, promotion of clinically effective care, patient outcomes and evidence based practice.

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.

PAED6905 Growth and Nutrition

(Applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2006-2007 and thereafter)

Topics include growth and nutrition in Hong Kong children, nutritional requirements in childhood and adolescence and recommendations on healthy eating, breast feeding, nutritional additives and special formulas, food allergy, recurrent abdominal pain and peptic ulcer disease, chronic diarrhea and malabsorption, diabetes mellitus, obesity, malabsorption, inherited metabolic disease, practical approach to growth assessment, clinical spectrum of growth disorders, normal puberty, precocious puberty, delayed puberty, menstrual disorders, diabetes in childhood and adolescence, childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes, psychological sequelae of disorders of growth and puberty, long-term consequence of growth retardation in early life.

NURS8221 Health Care for Survivors of Family Violence

(Applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2006-2007 and thereafter)

Family violence is the focus of this module. Topics include child abuse, intimate partner violence, abuse of the elderly, care to survivors of family violence, issues and interventions specific to abused children, abused partners and abused elderly, health care research, clinical, policy and education applications, strategies for prevention of family violence, early identification and policy reformation.

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.

PAED6901 Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology

(Applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2006-2007 and thereafter)

Topics include how to identify a sick child with fever, and rule out sepsis and meningitis, paediatric ID emergencies: croup, epiglottitis, necrotizing fasciitis and toxic shock, pneumonia and bronchiolitis, URTI, otitis media and sinusitis, gastroenteritis, UTI and pyelonephritis, prevention of nosocomial infections in primary care settings, management of allergic reactions in the office, a child with recurrent infections, is it primary immunodeficiency? A child with musculoskeletal pain, is it arthritis? Case scenarios of primary immunodeficiencies and childhood rheumatic diseases, vaccination not included in HK schedule-should or should not use? Disease burden of infectious diseases and vaccination, food allergy and food intolerance in children.

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.

NURS8223 Randomized Controlled Trials of Nursing Intervention

What is RCT; Randomisation; Assessment, Blinding and Placebos; Special designs; Protocol development; Sub-group and multiple outcomes; Data analysis.

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.

NURS8215 Special Topics in Public Health Nursing Practice

(Applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2005-2006 and thereafter)

This module builds on those concepts covered in Advanced Practice in Public Health Nursing: Assessment of Aggregate Need and includes an in-depth examination of contemporary global and local health problems from a public health nursing perspective.

NURS8222 Statistical Practice in Health Sciences

(Applicable to candidates admitted in the academic year 2006-2007 and thereafter)

Topics include important concepts in statistics, data management in SPSS, simple analysis, multiple analysis, significance testing and sample size calculation.

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.

NURS8224 Translational Nursing Research

Conducting an integrative review including identification of a topic under research, data extraction, quality assessment, summary and synthesis of data. Assessing implementation potential. Developing evidence-based practice guidelines/protocols. Implementation plan and evaluating outcomes.

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.