



The Institute of Health Care was set up specifically to develop courses in Health Care on an academic level. For many years, the University has provided education for future doctors, dentists and pharmacists. However, today it is recognized that health care involves the efforts of a multidisciplinary team of caring professionals who meet, discuss and plan together the health care needs of individuals and specific client groups.

Such a multidisciplinary team includes various professionals such as Nurses, Midwives, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Radiographers, Speech-Language Pathologists, Medical Laboratory Technologists, Environmental Health Officers, Nutritionists, Dieticians, Podiatrists, Dental Technologists and Health Service Managers. All these professionals are responsible for the direct care of the patient or client.

The Institute of Health Care provides the knowledge and skills for the professional carer, so that s/he may contribute to effective decision making and policy setting. The Institute is also involved in continuing updating exercise, thereby keeping professionals abreast with recent developments in health care.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (Honours) IN NURSING STUDIES

The Profession

Nurses should have evidence-based knowledge when they care for people who have a long or short term illness or who, for other reasons (such as diabetes or cancer) need special care. They are involved in the assessment and planning of care for their clients. They work in a variety of settings both in the hospital and the community. There are different areas of nursing: child, adult, elderly, maternal, medical, surgical, mental health, high dependency and critical care.

The holistic care provided by a hospital nurse usually begins when patients arrive on the ward. The nursing role is multifaceted whereby a registered nurse is responsible for the physical care as well as the psychosocial and spiritual care of patients. A nurse forms part of the multi-disciplinary team in providing care to patients and their significant others. A nurse is in a unique position of spending long hours with the same group of patients and thus is not only able to monitor progress or regress, but also to influence the management of care, carry out effective teaching and educating, giving supportive advice, promoting healthy living, encouraging and supporting rehabilitation, liaising with other healthcare professionals as required, as well as being the patient's advocate as required.

Nurses may work in other health care sectors such as, but not limited to, community care, occupational care, primary care, research, health promotion and management roles. Although the care delivery and timeframe of patient contact is somewhat different, much of the essential skills developed through this programme are similar to those of a hospital based nurse.

Personal Qualities and Skills for Nurses

Nurses today are being encouraged to continue to develop on a personal and professional level through lifelong learning. Since nursing is a human-based discipline, a registered nurse needs to have good theoretical and practical knowledge, the ability to integrate theory and practice, the confidence in carrying out specific technical skills as well as good interpersonal, communication and team building skills. Technological advances mean that an understanding of and interest in science is essential. Likewise, the art of nursing requires that each nurse is knowledgeable, resourceful, mature and tolerant enough to cope with a wide variety of situations and with people from a wide range of social and cultural backgrounds. Effective time management and interpersonal skills are of the utmost importance in order to provide quality patient care, as the demands of practice require working with a multitude of professionals, often in stressful environments, and dealing with many unplanned and unexpected situations.

Course Objectives

The course aims to prepare professional, accountable nurses who are critical thinkers, knowledgeable doers and reflective practitioners who will be important players within the multidisciplinary team in any health care setting. The rapidly evolving nature of the world today, requires that nurses are self-directed, life long learners capable of dealing with change, so as to ensure that the health care needs of different sectors of the population are managed appropriately. The course conforms to the European Community Directives on Nursing Education 2005/36/EC/Section C/Article 31-33.

Nursing graduates are eligible for state registration and employment as First Level Nurses, provided they satisfy other conditions that the Health Service may require. The course offers the opportunity for both professional and academic advancement following the attainment of a degree in Nursing. The graduate should be equipped to undertake further work/practice, through practice based learning and the possibility of further studies at postgraduate level.

Course Duration

The course of studies extends over a period of four academic years of full-time study.

Admission Requirements

Candidates may apply for admission to the course leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Nursing Studies, if they are in possession of the Matriculation Certificate Examination, passes in the Secondary Examination Certificate Examinations at Grade 5 or better in Maltese, English Language and Mathematics and satisfy the following Special Course Requirements:

- ◆ An Advanced Level pass in **Biology**

Furthermore, prior to registering for the course, eligible candidates are also required to undergo a medical fitness test as directed by the Board so as to ascertain that they are fit for the duties related to their proposed studies.

NOTE FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

International applicants must contact the International Office before submitting their application.

Website: <http://www.um.edu.mt/intoff/>

E-mail: intoff@um.edu.mt

Course Structure

This course consists of a combination of theoretical and a practical component, which together total 240 ECTS, ranging from levels 1 to 4.

The theoretical component consists of study-units in:

- ◆ Nursing Theory
- ◆ Subjects supportive to Nursing

The practical component will be assessed using a continuous assessment system throughout the four years, in which the student will demonstrate personal and professional development by attaining the required level of competence in each of the five EU-wide accepted domains of competence.