SINGAPORE NURSING BOARD

GUIDELINES FOR CURRICULUM ACCREDITATION/RE-ACCREDITATION OF PRE-REGISTRATION NURSING PROGRAMMES

(A) <u>CURRICULUM</u>

The curriculum comprises theoretical and clinical/practicum hours with a minimum clinical practice placement of 32 weeks (1280 hours), inclusive of final consolidated practice placement.

The clinical practice experiences shall have well formulated learning outcomes that demonstrate the expected progression towards meeting Singapore Nursing Board's Core Competencies & Generic Skills for Registered Nurse (RN) (2018) and Scope of Professional Nursing and Midwifery Practice (2018).

(B) <u>ENTRY REQUIREMENTS</u>

The minimum entry requirements are as tabled below, and all applicants must pass the medical examination and be certified to have the abilities to perform patient care activities in a safe and effective manner (Refer to Annex on Fitness to Practise Advisory for nursing students)

Entry Requirements	Pre-Registration Programmes	
	Undergraduate Degree in Nursing	Diploma in Nursing
Academic For International students whose language of education is not in English	<u>A-Level</u>: a pass at H2 level in any 2 of the following subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computing and Maths <u>NUS High School</u> qualifications: Major CAP of 2.0 in any 2 of the following subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths. Acceptable Diploma from a Polytechnic in Singapore	<u>O-level</u>: EL1: (grade 1-7) R1 – Maths (grade 1- 6) R2 - Any one of 8 subjects (subset of 2nd group of R subjects (grade 1-6) below: Biology Biotechnology Chemistry Food & Nutrition Physics Science (Chemistry, Biology) Science (Physics, Biology) Science (Physics, Chemistry) IELTS score of <u>6.0</u> (or equivalent) for writing, speaking, listening & reading, as required by the education provider
Aptitude-based admissions	Discretionary Admissions Scheme (DAS): admissions may include students who do not meet cut-off point but show aptitude for the course and possess minimum academic competence may be considered.	Early Admissions Exercise (EAE): allow students to secure a place in a diploma programme before they sit for O level exams. EAE that assesses students' aptitude, talents and interests in the course applied for.

(C) <u>TEACHING STRATEGIES</u>

The teaching strategies will include:
- a variety of teaching and learning methods, including: lectures, tutorials, video conferencing, classroom and small group discussions, role-play, simulation-based learning, etc.

- use of simulation to facilitate critical thinking, problem-solving and development of clinical skills competence

(D) <u>CORE CONTENTS</u>

The curriculum shall focus on the Singapore healthcare context and the core contents as listed below:

1) Life Sciences
   - Anatomy and Physiology
   - Pathophysiology & Disease process
   - Microbiology
   - Nutrition
   - Pharmacology & management of medications

2) Behavioural, Social and Health Sciences
   - Psychology
   - Sociology
   - Global health trends and national health policies

3) Nursing Science
   - Caring science
   - Communication & information technology
   - Health assessment
   - Health education and prevention of illnesses
   - Maintaining a safe environment
   - Continuous quality improvement
   - Evidence-based practice
   - Principles of nursing leadership & management
   - Clinical reasoning, multiple ways of thinking & decision making

4) Foundations of Nursing Practice
   - Medical-Surgical Nursing
   - Care of the Older Adult
   - Women and Children Health
   - Community Health
   - Palliative care
   - Mental Health & Psychiatric nursing
   - Acute care
   - Intermediate & Long-term care
   - Transitional care
   - Professional, Legal and Ethical nursing practice
   - Nursing Skills (refer to SNB's Core Competencies and Generic skills for RN)

5) Research
   - Research process
   - Critical appraisal of research findings
   - Basic statistics

CLINICAL NURSING PRACTICE – disciplines and minimum duration (weeks/hours) of clinical placement

Disciplines	Minimum Duration of Placement	
	Weeks	Hours
General Medical (Acute or Community Hospitals with a minimum of 4 weeks in acute hospital, inclusive of Emergency Department)	7	280
Elder Care/ Intermediate and Long-Term Care (Community Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Eldercare/ Rehabilitation Centres)	4	160
Community Health (Primary Care, School Health & Home Nursing)	2	80
Mental Health	2	80
Paediatrics or Obstetrics & Gynaecology	2	80
General Surgical (Operating Theatre, Surgical, Orthopaedics, Gynaecology & Day Surgical wards)	5	200
Consolidated Clinical Practice* (Medical-Surgical)	10	400
Total	32	1280

*Consolidated Clinical Placement shall take place only when students have completed/passed all core modules (theory & clinical). The placement period shall be at least 10 weeks.

NB: A maximum of 160 hours of simulation learning can be used to replace clinical practice placement hours. Institutions planning to adopt this strategy shall write in to SNB for approval. Institutions to indicate the clinical nursing practice discipline to be replaced.

(E) Candidature

In line with international educational standards and practice, students are required to complete pre-registration nursing programmes within 4 years (for full-time programme of 2 years' duration) 6 years (for full-time programmes of 3 years' duration) and 8 years (for full-time programmes of 4 years' duration). This is to ensure that students' knowledge & competencies remain current and relevant prior to application for registration with Singapore Nursing Board. While education institutions retain full responsibility for the management of the pre-registration nursing programmes, setting time limits on candidature is to ensure public protection is not compromised.

(F) Information to be specified for each subject/ course:

1) Curriculum vitae (CV) of lecturer teaching the subject. The CV shall include:
   - Academic and teaching qualifications
   - Relevant work and teaching experience in subject area
   - Participation in continuing education within the last 2 years
2) Subject description
3) Learning outcomes
4) Content
5) Teaching methods: specify contact hours for each teaching strategy.
6) Readings and references

(This section to be included within the general guidelines for submission of courses for accreditation)

<u>Fitness to Practice Advisory for nursing students</u>

As the delivery of direct patient care is a requisite of healthcare professions, all applicants must pass a medical examination and be certified to have the following abilities to perform patient care activities in a safe and effective manner:

1) **Mental-Cognitive ability** (including interpersonal-communication ability and behavioural stability) to:

   (a) provide safe care to populations, including safety to self

   (b) demonstrate emotional-behavioural stability to function under the stress and pressure when performing nursing care on patients

   (c) remain calm when being observed by instructors and other health care personnel during clinical practice attachments.

2) **Physical ability** to:

   (a) move around in the clinical environment, walk/stand, bend, reach, lift climb, push and pull, carry objects

   (b) perform patient transfers and complex sequences of hand-eye coordination.

3) **Auditory ability** to hear:

   (a) faint body sounds

   (b) auditory alarms

   (c) normal speaking level sounds (i.e., blood pressure sounds, monitors, call bells and person-to-person report).

4) **Visual ability** to:

   (a) detect changes in physical appearance, colour and contour

   (b) read accurately medication/ drug labels, markings on syringes and manometers, written and electronic communication.

The above required abilities are stipulated in consultation with Ministry of Education and the nursing schools to ensure nursing students are fit to practise when they apply for registration/ enrolment upon graduation from nursing programme.

Interested applicants with known condition(s) or unsure if their condition(s) may affect their ability to deliver safe and effective patient care are highly encouraged to contact Nanyang Polytechnic/ Ngee Ann Polytechnic/ Institute of Technical Education for more information.