



SINGAPORE NURSING BOARD

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

(A) CURRICULUM

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) (2023) and Scope of Professional Nursing and Midwifery Practice for RN (2023).

(B) ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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	<p><u>A-Level:</u> A pass at H2 level in any 2 of the following subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computing and Maths</p> <p><u>NUS High School</u> qualifications: Major CAP of 2.0 in any 2 of the following subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths.</p> <p>Acceptable Diploma from a Polytechnic in Singapore</p>	<p><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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biology - Biotechnology - Chemistry - Food & Nutrition - Physics - Science (Chemistry, Biology) - Science (Physics, Biology) - Science (Physics, Chemistry) </p>
Career Conversion Programme (CCP) RN		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bachelor's degree from a recognized university in a discipline other than nursing; <u>or</u> - A non-nursing diploma or higher from a local polytechnic or Institute of Technical Education; <u>or</u> - Local diplomas offered by institutions such as Building Construction Authority Academy, LASALLE College of the Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA); <u>or</u> - 3 GCE 'A' level credits (Grades A to E) with 2 GCE 'O' level credits (Grades A1 to C6) in a Science subject and Mathematics.
For International students whose language of education is not in English		IELTS score of <u>6.0</u> (or equivalent) for writing, speaking, listening & reading, as required by the education provider.

Entry Requirements	Pre-Registration Programmes	
	Undergraduate Degree in Nursing	Diploma in Nursing
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) TEACHING STRATEGIES

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) CORE CONTENTS

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 RNs 2023)

5) Research

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

(E) CLINICAL NURSING PRACTICE AND CLINICAL PRACTICE REPLACEMENT USING SBE

Replacement for Pre-Registration Nursing Programme: not more than **8 weeks** of clinical hours to be replaced with clinical simulation.

Clinical Nursing Practice – disciplines and minimum duration (weeks/hours) of clinical placement.

Disciplines	Weeks	Hours
General Medical (Acute, Community Hospitals or Nursing Homes with minimum of 4 weeks in acute hospital, inclusive of Emergency Department)	7	280
Elder Care / Intermediate and Long -Term Care/ Palliative Care (Community Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Elder Day Care/Rehabilitation Centres)	4	160
Community Health (Primary Care, School Health, Home Nursing and Community Health Services)	2	80
Mental Health (Institute of 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 8 weeks 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. Please refer to “Guidelines on the Use of Simulation-based Education to replace Clinical Hours for Pre-enrolment/Pre-registration Nursing Education” on SNB’s “Guidelines and Standards” webpage.

(F) 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.

(G) 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 professional education in the last 2 years
- 2) Subject description
- 3) Learning outcomes
- 4) Content
- 5) Teaching methods: specify contact hours for each teaching strategy
- 6) Assessment: specify methods and weightage for each type of assessment
- 7) Readings and references

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

FITNESS ADVISORY FOR NURSING STUDENTS

As the delivery of direct patient care is a requisite of healthcare professions, all applicants to pre-registration/pre-enrolment nursing programmes 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) understand and respond to verbal communications accurately, appropriately and in a timely manner
 - (b) possess awareness of one's surroundings to avoid causing harm to oneself and others
 - (c) demonstrate emotional stability to function under stress and pressure when performing care on patients
 - (d) remain calm when being observed by instructors and other health care personnel during clinical practice attachments
 - (e) maintain a sufficient level of concentration to complete tasks in a safe and reasonable time frame
 - (f) recall relevant information
 - (g) demonstrate the ability to perform arithmetic calculations

- 2) **Physical ability** to:
 - (a) move around in the clinical environment, walk, stand, bend, squat, kneel, reach, lift, climb, push and pull, carry objects, use both arms
 - (b) perform patient transfers
 - (c) operate and carry instruments, materials and equipment independently
 - (d) perform the necessary sequences of hand-eye coordination to carry out clinical procedures
 - (e) have the physical stamina to complete clinical shifts, including rotating shifts

- 3) **Auditory ability** to:
 - (a) detect faint body sounds (e.g. blood pressure, heart, bowel, lung sounds using a stethoscope)
 - (b) hear different types of auditory alarms and alerts (e.g. patient monitors, call bells, infusion pumps)
 - (c) hear and understand normal speaking level sounds in both quiet and noisy environments (e.g. person-to-person report, patient conversations, team communications)

- 4) **Visual ability** to:
 - (a) detect changes in physical appearance, colour and contour
 - (b) read medication/drug labels, markings on syringes, printed and written documents, coloured digital readings on medical/clinical devices and electronic health records accurately
 - (c) assess and describe colour, consistency and volume of bodily discharge and fluids

FITNESS ADVISORY FOR NURSING STUDENTS

Should applicants have conditions¹ that may affect their ability to meet the mental-cognitive, physical, auditory, or visual requirements outlined above, please contact the nursing school for further information. Where applicable, the nursing school will advise or assist with regard to the necessary adjustments to support students with declared condition(s) to access the nursing programme while adhering to necessary requirements and standards.

The above required abilities are stipulated in consultation with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and nursing schools (National University of Singapore/ Singapore Institute of Technology/ Nanyang Polytechnic/ Ngee Ann Polytechnic/ Institute of Technical Education), to ensure nursing students are fit to complete all components of the nursing programme and thereafter to apply for registration/ enrolment to practise upon graduation from the nursing programme.

¹ *'Physical health condition' includes (a) chronic medical illnesses or dermatological conditions (e.g. uncontrolled epilepsy, uncontrolled asthma, active tuberculosis, uncontrolled diabetes, uncontrolled hypertension, severe eczema on hands) which if associated with an exacerbation or with organ dysfunction complications, may hinder the applicant's ability to provide appropriate and safe clinical care, as well as (b) health conditions or its sequelae which restrict the applicant's subsequent ability to engage in safe clinical practice.*

'Mental health conditions' refers to a range of conditions which are diagnosed and treated by a registered psychiatrist, and which may affect the decision-making ability of the applicant and compromise the well-being and safety of his patients/clients. These could include anxiety disorders, mood disorders (e.g. depressive and bipolar disorders), psychotic disorders (e.g. schizophrenia), neurodevelopmental disorders (e.g. intellectual development disorder, autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), as well as addictions.

'Other health conditions' refers to other conditions which may compromise the ability of the applicant to assess relevant information in order to formulate a management plan for his patient/client. This may include miscellaneous conditions for example dyslexia and other learning disorders, colour blindness or other conditions compromising the function of the applicant's visual and auditory senses.