

Ministerial Order on the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programme

Pursuant to Article 5, par. 1-2, and Article 11, par. 2, of Act no. 481 of 31 May 2000 on medium-length further education programmes, and Article 54 of Act no. 451 of 22 May 2006 on the authorisation of healthcare personnel and healthcare activities, and after negotiations with the Minister of Health and Prevention, the following rules are hereby laid down:

Chapter 1

Purpose, structure and duration

Article 1. The purpose of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing programme is to qualify graduates to work independently as nurses and to enter a professional and interdisciplinary context. The programme is to qualify students in theoretical and clinical aspects of nursing in line with social, scientific and technological developments, as well as the population's nursing needs; cf. Appendix 1.

Par. 2. Graduates must be able to:

- 1) carry out and manage nursing in a way that promotes health, prevents and treats illness, rehabilitates patients and relieves pain;
- 2) assess, justify and develop their professional activities in relation to the patients;
- 3) cooperate with the patients and their relatives, as well as colleagues and other professional groups, of all ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds;
- 4) develop and innovate nursing, apply existing knowledge in the field of nursing in new contexts, and follow, apply and take part in healthcare research; and
- 5) continue in theoretically and clinically qualifying further education after completing the bachelor programme.

Article 2. The programme has been prescribed 3½ years of full-time study, corresponding to 210 ECTS points (European Credit Transfer System).

Par. 2. The programme will be divided into semesters and modules. Each semester will last 18-24 weeks and will be divided into two modules. A module is a complete educational unit and will involve theoretical or clinical elements, or a combination thereof. The degree to which students achieve the study results described for the module will be assessed after each module.

Article 3. The programme will give graduates the right to the title of Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Par. 2. Graduates will be authorised pursuant to the Act on authorisation of healthcare personnel and healthcare activities.

Article 4. The institution that offers the programme will be responsible for the programme in its entirety. The clinical site of education will be responsible to the educational institution for carrying out the clinical education in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the educational institution.

Chapter 2

Academic content and structure

Article 5. The programme will be profession and development-based, and based on knowledge from the nursing profession, the medical, natural and social sciences, and the humanities. Theoretical and clinical education will be combined and interact with increasing degrees of difficulty and complexity throughout the programme, with a view to developing professional understanding and competence.

Par. 2. The programme's basis in the profession will be ensured by maintaining an interplay between the values and knowledge of both the programme and the profession, and incorporating developments in the profession into the programme.

Par. 3. The programme's basis in the profession's developments will be ensuring by incorporating relevant results of national and international research, so that the programme is always founded on the latest research.

Par. 4. The programme will be based on an understanding of scientific theory that will make it possible to study the theories, concepts and methods of nursing and other professions, which can help describe, explain and understand the specific problems, phenomena and contexts that nurses encounter.

Par. 5. Through participation, practice and reflection on nursing, students are to achieve practical and personal competence in undertaking, leading, communicating and developing nursing.

Par. 6. Varying forms of study must help the students build up competence as regards learning, independence, creativity and the ability to cooperate.

Article 6. The programme will comprise theoretical education corresponding to a total of 120 ECTS points, and clinical education corresponding to a total of 90 ECTS points. The first or second semester will include clinical education corresponding to at least 15 ECTS points. The programme will also include an interprofessional module corresponding to 15 ECTS points and an optional module corresponding to 20 ECTS points. The programme will be completed by a bachelor project corresponding to 20 ECTS points.

Par. 2. The programme's theoretical and clinical parts comprise: the nursing subject (120 ECTS points), medical science subjects (40 ECTS points), natural science subjects (25 ECTS points), humanities subjects (15 ECTS points), and social science subjects (10 ECTS points).

Article 7. The programme also includes education in environmental issues and the interplay between different cultural forms to the extent that it is relevant within the individual subject areas.

Chapter 3

Clinical education

Article 8. The clinical education will be organised in the form of a progression from observation to reflection to independent practice and training of fundamental skills, so that students acquire general professional skills, and the ability to make and assess competent choices.

Par. 2. The clinical education will focus on people's experiences, conditions and actions in terms of health and illness; on nursing needs, services and results; interaction between patient, relatives and nurse; the student's own academic and personal development; and on interdisciplinary and cross-sector cooperation.

Par. 3. The educational institution will approve the clinical sites of education based on local possibilities in the healthcare and social services areas.

Par. 4. The clinical site of education will prepare a description of the clinical education in accordance with the relevant guidelines in the curriculum. The description will be subject to approval by the educational institution.

Article 9. The educational institution is to prepare the student for each clinical course. The institution will prepare an individual study plan in collaboration with the student and the clinical site of education. The experiences from the clinical course will then be incorporated into the theoretical education.

Chapter 4

Cooperation between the educational institution and clinical sites of education

Article 10. The educational institution and the clinical site of education will work together to ensure that there is a connection between the theoretical and clinical education, and that the clinical education gives the students the requisite skills. The educational institution is to ensure that this cooperation is established and continued.

Chapter 5

Examinations, etc.

Article 11. At least 1/3 of the programme (in terms of ECTS points) must be documented through external examinations. The programme will include five external examinations. One examination will be given in the second semester, and the bachelor project will be completed in the seventh semester. The schedule of the other examinations can be found in the curriculum.

Par. 2. Clinical courses with 7 ECTS points or more will be assessed through separate internal examinations. Assessment of clinical courses with less than 7 ECTS points will be part of the theoretical examination. The aim of the clinical examinations is to assess students' clinical competence. An examiner from the education institution will participate in examinations that are structured according to Par. 1. Tests will be given a pass/fail grade.

Par. 3. Students must pass the external and internal examinations given in the programme's first three years before they can complete the bachelor project.

Par. 4. The rules set out in the following official documents will apply to examinations and examinations: the ministerial order on examinations and examinations in professional educational programmes, the ministerial order on grading scales and other forms of assessment, and the ministerial order on the Bachelor of Science in Nursing programme.

Chapter 6

Curriculum

Article 12. The institutions will offer the study programme to students in accordance with the curriculum; cf. Appendix 2, which applies to all institutions that offer the study programme; cf., however, Article 13, par. 1

Par. 2. The curriculum sets out the rules for examinations and examinations in more detail (cf. the ministerial order on examinations). It also describes the following items in more detail:

- 1) The content and ECTS points of the programme's individual subject areas and modules.
- 2) The content, ECTS points, placement and structure of the clinical education.
- 3) The framework and structure of the optional module.
- 4) The interprofessional module.
- 5) The bachelor project.
- 6) The programme's forms of education and study, including the use of IT.
- 7) Cooperation between the educational institution and the clinical sites of education.
- 8) Criteria for approval of clinical sites of education.
- 9) Study plans.
- 10) Opportunities to study abroad.
- 11) Tests and forms of assessment used.
- 12) Obligatory attendance.
- 13) Exemption (credit).
- 14) Dispensation

Article 13. The curriculum sets out which of its rules apply to all the educational institution that offer the programme, and which only apply to individual institutions. In Article 12, par. 2, nos. 4, 7, 10 and 11 of the curriculum, the individual institution can set out rules that only apply to the programme at that institution.

Par. 2. Where justified by special circumstances, the institution can make an exemption from the rules in the curriculum that only apply to the programme offered at that institution; cf. par. 1.

Par. 3. The curriculum must be approved by the Ministry of Education after a statement by the National Board of Health before it is taken into use and before any changes to the rules that apply to all institutions that offer the programme.

Par. 4. A student representative and a representative of the clinical sites of education must participate in the preparation of, and any changes to, the part of the curriculum that only applies to the individual institution (cf. par. 1). The institution will establish transitional schemes.

Par. 5. An up-to-date version of the curriculum must always be available on the institution's website.

Chapter 7

Exemptions (credit)

Article 14. Students have the right to be exempted from parts of the programme that deal with material in which the students have already achieved qualifications. The exemption will be granted based on documentation of the completed education or employment that corresponds to the part of the programme the student is applying to be exempted from.

Par. 2. Passed educational modules at an institution that offers the programme after this ministerial order will be equivalent to the corresponding educational modules at other institutions that offer the programme.

Chapter 8

Other rules

Article 15. The programme must be completed no later than six years after it is begun. This does not include sabbaticals due to pregnancy, adoption, military service, UN service, etc. In special cases the institution may extend the programme beyond the six years.

Article 16. The Minister of Education may deviate from the ministerial order as part of experimental initiatives.

Article 17. Students may appeal their institution's decisions in relation to this order to the Ministry of Education if the complaint concerns legal issues. The complaint must be submitted to the institution within 14 days of the student receiving the decision. If the institution maintains its original decision, the complaint is to be sent to the Ministry of Education together with the institution's explanation and re-evaluation.

Chapter 9

Commencement, etc.

Article 18. The present ministerial order will enter into force on 30 January 2008.

Par. 2. The present ministerial order will replace order no. 1095 of 7 November 2006 on the Bachelor of Science in Nursing programme.

Par. 3. However, the order of 7 November 2006 mentioned in par. 2 will still apply to those students who began the programme before 30 January 2008.

Par. 4. The institutions can create transitional schemes for students who began the programme under the former rules (cf. par. 2), and who have not completed the programme before 1 January 2012, so that these students will complete the programme under the rules set out in the present ministerial order.

to the Ministerial Order on the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programme, January 2008

Learning Outcomes for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The study results comprise the knowledge, skills and competences that a Bachelor of Science in Nursing has achieved in the programme.

Knowledge

A Bachelor of Science in Nursing:

- 1) can describe central knowledge areas in nursing, and the areas in the medical, natural and social sciences and the humanities that are relevant to the nursing profession;
- 2) can describe general and specific nursing-related problems from different perspectives;
- 3) can describe and explain the use of central nursing interventions in relation to different patient groups and contexts;
- 4) understands different analytical methods used in the profession;
- 5) can account for and reflect on methods, processes and barriers in relation to quality and development work and the implementation of results of research and development work in professional practice;
- 6) can account for and reflect on methods and procedures used in assessments and actions in professional practice;
- 7) can account for and reflect on general documentation strategies, classification systems and standards;
- 8) has knowledge of theories of science and research methodologies in the nursing profession;
- 9) can account for the legal basis for professional nursing practice;
- 10) can account for the organisation of the healthcare system, including the division of responsibilities between the different sectors, departments and operators, and can see the professional practice in the light of organisational and administrative frameworks and social conditions.

Skills

A Bachelor of Science in Nursing:

- 1) can search for, organise and assess information about general and specific nursing issues, and analyse and interpret these based on relevant national and international research;
- 2) can search for, organise and assess information about clinical guidelines and the use of relevant research and development work in nursing;
- 3) can search for, organise and assess information about central nursing interventions;
- 4) can analyse concrete nursing-related problems and discuss possible connections, reasons and consequences;
- 5) can use nursing-related analytic methods to deal with general and specific nursing-related problems;

- 6) can take a patient perspective in the analysis of professional issues, and can identify possible dilemmas and power relations in the professional practice or in its framework;
- 7) can use data collection methods linked to the nursing profession and can use them to analyse empirical data;
- 8) can communicate and argue for nursing-related observations, insights, analyses, assessments and suggestions for interventions verbally and in writing, in a clear professional terminology;
- 9) can use principles for the preparation and updating of nursing and treatment programmes;
- 10) masters central instrumental nursing treatments, methods and standards;
- 11) can identify and analyse ethical dilemmas and problems in the healthcare sector and in nursing;
- 12) masters medical numeracy and dispensing;
- 13) can justify suggestions for interventions in nursing tasks that involve promoting health, preventing and treating illness, rehabilitating patients and relieving pain;
- 14) masters ordinary documentation practice and administrative procedures;
- 15) can use IT in connection with nursing activities; and
- 16) can read and understand international health care research in English.

Competences

A Bachelor of Science in Nursing:

- 1) independently identifies nursing needs, formulates objectives, carries out, evaluates and adjusts nursing for selected patient groups;
- 2) cooperates with patients, their relatives and other professional people in planning, coordinating, delegating, carrying out and assessing nursing;
- 3) masters nursing activities in relation to central clinical patient situations, e.g. patients in pain, patients with changed perceptions, patients with nutritional and fluid problems, or patients who are suffering or dying;
- 4) practices independent nursing in relation to patients with different views of life and different cultural, social family circumstances;
- 5) supports patients in coping with their life circumstances and takes a pedagogical approach to healthcare;
- 6) communicates with patients with a respect for different values, cultures, intellectual levels and emotional states;
- 7) identifies potential dilemmas and power relations in nursing and treatment situations and in structural relationships in the healthcare sector and acts based on ethical guidelines, rules for patient safety and environmental risk factors;
- 8) takes part in diagnostic investigations, treatments and observations associated with the above;
- 9) helps ensure continuity in the nursing and treatment processes, e.g. by cooperating with other professional groups and across sectors and institutions;
- 10) carries out quality and development work in nursing and can follow, apply and take part in research work in the healthcare sector;
- 11) handles management and coordination tasks with a view to creating continuity in nursing and treatment processes;
- 12) adheres to ethical nursing guidelines;
- 13) can find, organise, acquire and assess information relevant to nursing, including new national and international research;
- 14) has insight into his or her own learning process and masters reading and study techniques as a condition for ongoing professional learning and development; and

15) masters basic academic methods, which are a condition for continuing with qualifying further education at master's level.