

Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK





UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland

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The Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery is recognised as one of the most progressive and avant-garde schools in Ireland. The continued annual increase in applications from high achieving applicants to the various pre-registration programmes ensures that the school remains one of the most competitive schools of Nursing and Midwifery in the country. The school itself can be found within the new Brookfield Health Sciences Complex (BHSC). The BHSC is a spacious leafy quarter in the University Campus and is also home to the School of Medicine, and the School of Clinical Therapies (Occupational Therapy and Speech & Hearing Science). The Schools of Pharmacy and Dentistry are located nearby. These five schools form the College of Medicine and Health which has an appointed Head of College while each individual school has an appointed Professor as Head of the School. The school of nursing and midwifery is in close proximity to the maternity hospital and many of the general hospitals where students undertake their clinical practice placements.

Mission of the Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery

The mission of the School is to advance nursing and midwifery practice by providing leadership for the professions through the development of innovative professional educational programmes, excellence in clinical practice and the promotion of research with national and international links.

The Catherine McAuley School of Nursing & Midwifery is one of the few specially commissioned buildings in Ireland designed solely to meet the educational needs of nursing and midwifery students. All lecture, clinical skills and communication laboratory facilities are state of the art and compare favourably with the best nursing and midwifery schools internationally. While the School is one of the largest schools of nursing and midwifery in Ireland, it is unique in that it continues to divide its large student numbers into much smaller groups for both teaching and clinical laboratory work. The school works on the premise that small group teaching encourages and maintains close lecturer-student interaction and promotes in-class discussions.

As an integral part of the College of Medicine and Health, nursing and midwifery students have opportunities to study, interact and socialise with students of other health care professions.

BSc Nursing and Midwifery Programmes

Nursing and midwifery professionals are concerned with promoting, maintaining and protecting the quality of human life and the quality of health of individuals, families and the community. The five pre-registration BSc programmes aim to foster the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes and professional values to enable nurses or midwives practice at graduate level while facilitating the development of personal, professional and academic growth. The successful completion of each programme leads to an entitlement to register with An Bord Altranis - the professional body for Nursing and Midwifery in Ireland.

All undergraduate Nursing and Midwifery programmes are level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework. Each year a specific number of places are allotted to individual programmes. This number is generally stable but may fluctuate depending on national requirements. The greater majority of places are allocated to General nursing students (145) followed by Psychiatric Nursing (30), Intellectual Disability Nursing (25), Integrated Children's/General Nursing (20), Midwifery (20). A number of places are reserved each year for mature students and students from disadvantaged areas. Since its inception in 2002 the total number of applications to the School's BSc Nursing programmes has continued to increase.

BSc Nursing (General)

The 4 year general nursing programme contains the essential elements that facilitate the development of professional knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to meet the nursing needs of patients who are acutely or chronically ill. The Healthcare services and the work trends of general nurses are changing continuously and the general nurse must be able to respond to the health needs and demands of the Irish population (An Bord Altranais 2008).

BSc Nursing (Integrated Children's and General)

This 4 ½ year programme offers a dual qualification as both a general nurse and a children's nurse offering students the opportunity to learn about caring for people throughout the lifespan (i.e. babies to older adults). As well as the attributes required for general nursing, children's nursing facilitates child and family empowerment, and aims to enable maintenance/restoration of optimal wellbeing for the child in a needs led culturally sensitive and high quality manner (An Bord Altranais 2008).

BSc Nursing (Psychiatric)

Psychiatric Nurses work with people who are experiencing some form of mental distress and through empowering, therapeutic relationships help them work through their difficulties. Psychiatric nurses work with and care for people, both in the community and hospital services (An Bord Altranais 2008).



BSc Nursing (Intellectual Disability)

Intellectual Disability nursing holds true the belief that each person is an individual with unique characteristics, capabilities, needs and wishes. This uniqueness is embedded in the facilitation and empowerment of people with Intellectual Disability across the lifespan to meet their full potential through partnership in a flexible, dynamic and inclusive environment. The intellectual disability nurse will be a caring, proactive, reflective, and analytical health professional and be an integral member of the interdisciplinary team drawing on their in-depth specialist theoretical knowledge and clinical expertise

BSc Midwifery

The term 'midwife' means 'with woman'. Midwifery involves the provision of care and support to women during pregnancy, labour and birth, and to women and their babies following birth (An Bord Altranais 2008).



For the duration of a BSc programme there are both shared and branch specific modules. A module may correspond to 5, 10, 15 or 20 credits. One year of the BSc degree programme consists of 60 credits. See the college calendar (www.ucc.ie/academic/calendar) and book of modules (www.ucc.ie/academic/modules) for further details.

Year one: 26 weeks college based learning, 7 weeks practice based learning, 15 weeks holidays
Year two: 26 weeks college based learning, 18 weeks practice based learning, 12 weeks holidays
Year three: 13 weeks college based learning, 19 weeks practice based learning, 22 weeks holidays
Year four: 12 weeks college based learning, 37 weeks practice based learning (of which 36 weeks is a rostered internship) and 4 weeks holidays

(Note: The duration of the integrated Childrens and General nursing programme is 4.5 years and the length of time in both college based learning and practice based learning is greater in view of the dual qualification awarded).

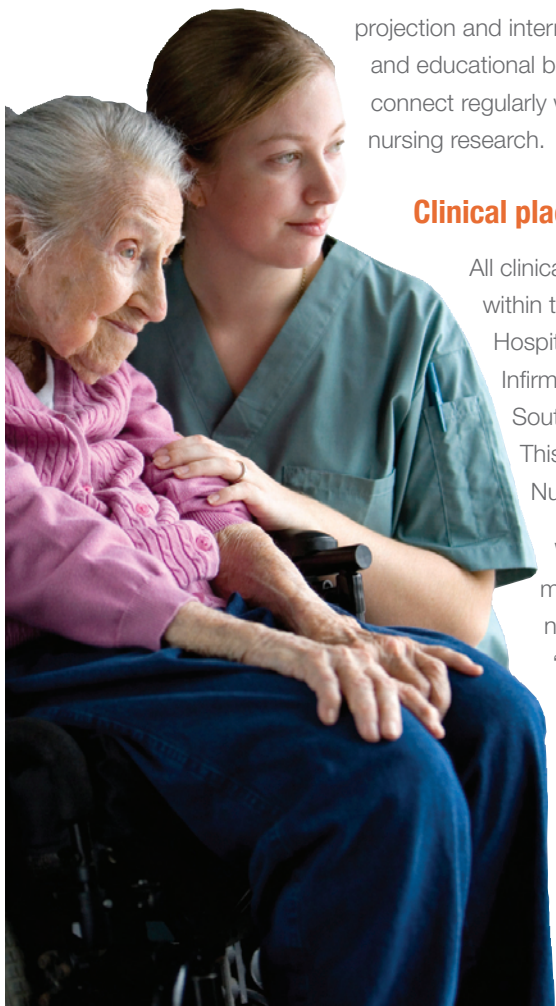
Teaching/Course delivery and resources

Learning approaches for all programmes include: lectures, debates, small group discussions, group work, individual and group tutorials, seminars, computer-based learning, classroom and practice-based assignments as well as role play. These can be facilitated within a variety of teaching venues within the School. One such venue is the communication skills studio where students engaged in role play can be observed locally. Video images of the role play can also be relayed to the various teaching venues in the School. All lecture rooms are equipped with amplification, video projection and internet systems. The lecturing staff come from diverse clinical and educational backgrounds (see www.ucc.ie/acad/nursing for staff profiles), connect regularly with the clinical areas and are all actively involved in pursuing nursing research.

Clinical placements

All clinical placements are facilitated through health care providers within the Health Service Executive (HSE) e.g. Cork University Hospital, Mercy University Hospital, Bon Secours Hospital, South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, Cope Foundation, HSE South Mental Health Services, HSE South Maternity Services. This process is conducted in close partnership with the BSc Nursing and BSc Midwifery programmes.

While on clinical placement the student nurse or student midwife receives continuous support in their learning. Each nursing or midwifery student is allocated a preceptor nurse to 'buddy' them through their clinical placement and there are also clinical placement co-ordinators (CPC's) and/or clinical facilitators, employed in the clinical areas, who ensure that students meet specific learning objectives. Link lecturers from the School also visit the clinical areas to support the students' learning.



Salaries and uniform (allowances/grants for pre-registration students)

The health services are responsible for administering a uniform to students (clothing allowance/grant). A continual 36 week rostered clinical placement (internship) takes place during the fourth year. During this period the student is a paid employee of the health service. For the remainder of the time students may apply for a means-tested student grant and avail of opportunities to work during the summer months.



Clinical Skills Resource Centre

The Clinical Skills Resource Centre is a state-of-the-art facility designed to simulate realistic clinical settings, providing students with the opportunity to learn and enhance their skills in a safe controlled environment. Students have the opportunity to advance their nursing skills by active participation in hands-on training sessions that demonstrate the real-life aspects of nursing. On occasions, actors are utilised to help with real-life scenarios. Advanced Patient Simulators can be used to simulate almost any clinical situation and are programmable to provide the most life-like responses with immediate feedback for student learning. The clinical skills resource centre's equipment portfolio is the envy of many schools around the world. Simulation based education challenges student's decision making skills, clinical competencies, communication skills, and their ability to work within a team during realistic patient care scenarios.

By utilising the centre's extensive digital recording system students have the unique opportunity of viewing themselves in action. Self evaluation and self critique then become an integral part of the learning process.

Boston Scientific Brookfield Health Science Library and Information Technology Services

Nursing and Midwifery have a dedicated subject librarian who provides both formal and informal classes on using the library and acts as a resource to students. The library houses the main Nursing and Midwifery collections for UCC, along with the Clinical Therapies, Epidemiology and Public Health, Pharmacy and General Practice collections.

Facilities in Brookfield Library include:

- 72 personal computers accessible by students
- Internet access on both floors
- 267 reader places
- 2 group study rooms (one with audiovisual equipment)
- Photocopier room
- Central printer room
- Information skills training room



Students also have full access to UCC's Boole library and to medical libraries within all health care provider facilities where the students are allocated for clinical placements.

School of Nursing and Midwifery students also have access to a dedicated computer laboratory comprising of 68 personal computers located on the first floor of the Brookfield Health Sciences Complex.

Student support

The support structures for students are well established. A personal tutor system operates within the School whereby each student on the BSc Nursing and BSc Midwifery programmes is allocated a specific personal tutor at the beginning of the academic year. Students are also free to approach any of the lecturing staff involved in their education and professional development for guidance and direction. In addition, a group leader is assigned to classes of 50 so that important information is communicated to the group on a regular basis. Group leaders address any queries relating to teaching and learning and relay students concerns to the course director or coordinator (the person in charge of the programme).

Post Graduate Programmes

As well as the 5 undergraduate programmes, the school also offers a range of postgraduate diploma programmes, MSc. programmes and PhD supervision to facilitate and promote the continued professional development of nurses and midwives.

Career opportunities

There are career opportunities in practice (at Clinical Nurse/Midwife Specialist and Advanced Nurse/Midwife Practitioner levels), management (Clinical Nurse Managers, Director of Nursing), research (research assistants, full time researchers) and education (Lecturer, Tutor, Clinical Placement Coordinator) following qualification. Irish nursing and midwifery qualifications are recognised in many countries around the world offering opportunities to work abroad.

Application process

Applications to pre-registration programmes in any Irish university can only be processed through the Central Applications Office (CAO – www.cao.ie). All pre-registration undergraduate nursing/midwifery



programmes are allocated individualised CAO codes as follows:

General (CK710), **Integrated Children's/General** (CK712), **Psychiatric** (CK720), **Intellectual Disability** (CK730), **Midwifery** (CK740).

Mature student codes: General (CK711), **Integrated Children's/General** (CK713) **Psychiatric** (CK721) **Intellectual Disability** (CK731), **Midwifery** (CK741).

Eligibility

Applicants under 23 years must satisfy the minimum entry requirements for the College of Medicine and Health. Minimum grade: HC3 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at H or O level in the Leaving Certificate from Irish, English, Mathematics, one laboratory subject (i.e. Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics with Chemistry (joint) or Agricultural Science) and two other subjects recognised for entry purposes.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery participates in the 'UCC PLUS' Programme. The UCC PLUS Programme seeks to target students who are underrepresented in the third level sector and to provide motivational and educational assistance to them through their secondary schooling to enhance their ability to compete for third level places. Currently there are a number of schools and colleges of further education linked to the Programme for this purpose. Further information is available at (www.ucc.ie/uccplus).

Fees

For information on grants see: www.oasis.gov.ie/education

Further information on Fees is available from:

Fees and Grants Office, UCC. Tel: 00353 21 490 2365 email: fees@fin.ucc.ie

Nursing Careers Centre

Candidates for all undergraduate (pre-registration) nursing degrees should obtain a copy of *Nursing: A career for you*, which is an essential overview of degree programmes, application procedures etc. The booklet can be downloaded from the Nursing Careers Centre's website www.nursingcareers.ie.



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Email: ncc@nursingboard.ie

Web: www.nursingcareers.ie

References:

HSE (2007) National Employment Monitoring Unit, National Human Resource Directorate, Health Service Executive (HSE), Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

An Bord Altranais (2008) Nursing/Midwifery A Career for You www.nursingcareers.ie

