



## SINGAPORE NURSING BOARD

### GUIDELINES FOR CURRICULUM ACCREDITATION/RE-ACCREDITATION OF PRE-ENROLMENT NURSING PROGRAMMES

#### **(A) CURRICULUM**

The curriculum comprises theoretical and clinical/practicum hours with a minimum clinical practice placement of 28 weeks (1120 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 Enrolled Nurse (EN) (2023) and Scope of Professional Nursing Practice for the EN (2023).

#### **(B) ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum entry requirements (MER) are as tabled below. 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-Enrolment Programmes
Academic (Higher <i>Nitec</i> in Nursing)	<p>MER for entry into the 3-year <i>Higher Nitec</i> in Nursing:</p> <p><b><u>N-Level:</u></b> 3 GCE 'N' Level Passes (Grade A-D or Grade 1-5) in English Language, Mathematics and one other subject</p> <p><b><u>O-Level:</u></b> 2 GCE 'O' Level Grades (Grade 1-8) in any two subjects</p> <p>MER for entry into the 2-year Higher <i>Nitec</i> in Nursing:</p> <p><b><u>3 GCE 'O' Level Grades</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grade 1-8 in English Language</li> <li>- Grade 1-7 in Mathematics</li> <li>- Grade 1-8 in Science</li> </ul> <p>For International students whose language of education is not in English, IELTS score of <u>5.5</u> or equivalent (for writing and speaking 5.5, listening &amp; reading 5.0), as required by the education provider.</p>
Work Force Singapore – Professional Conversion Program for Enrolled Nurses ( <b>WSG-CCP</b> )	<p>MER for entry into the 3-year <i>Higher Nitec</i> in Nursing:</p> <p><b><u>N-Level:</u></b> 3 GCE 'N' Level Passes (Grade A-D or Grade 1-5) in English Language, Mathematics and one other subject</p> <p><b><u>O-Level:</u></b> 2 GCE 'O' Level Grades (Grade 1-8) in any two subjects</p> <p><b><u>ES WPLN:</u></b> Level 5 for all the following: Reading, Listening, Writing, Speaking &amp; Numeracy</p> <p>Individuals who have sat for GCE O/N-level but do not meet the above Academic Entry Requirements may still be considered. Application will be assessed holistically, and any of the following relevant prior training or work experience will be taken into consideration when assessing application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ITE Skills Certificate (ISC) in Health Care (Inpatient /Outpatient /Home Care / Clinic Practice) with a minimum GPA of 2.8</li> <li>• WSQ Advanced Certificate in Healthcare Support (Nursing Care) AND</li> <li>• Minimum 3 years full-time direct patient nursing care experience</li> </ul> <p>MER for entry into the 2-year <i>Higher Nitec</i> in Nursing:</p> <p><b><u>3 GCE 'O' Level Grades</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grade 1-8 in English Language</li> <li>- Grade 1-7 in Mathematics</li> <li>- Grade 1-8 in Science</li> </ul> <p>Selection will be based on passing an interview by ITE Admission Committee.</p>

### **(C) TEACHING STRATEGIES**

The teaching strategies will include

- a variety of teaching and learning methods, including lectures, tutorials, practical laboratory skills, lessons, classroom and small group discussions, role-play, simulation-based learning, and ICT-enabled learning.
- 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
  - Microbiology
  - Nutrition
  - Pharmacology
- 2) Behavioural, Social and Health Sciences
  - Psychology
  - Sociology
  - Global health trends and national health policies
  - Communication skills
- 3) Nursing Studies
  - Caring science
  - Communication & information technology
  - Health education and prevention of illnesses
  - Maintaining a safe environment
  - Evidence-based practice
  - Reflection on Practice
  - Clinical reasoning, multiple ways of thinking and decision making
- 4) Foundations of Nursing Practice
  - Medical-Surgical Nursing
  - Care of the Older Adult
  - Palliative care
  - Mental Health & Psychiatric Nursing
  - Intermediate & Long-term care
  - Professional, Legal and Ethical Nursing Practice
  - Collaborative Practice and Teamwork
  - Patient Safety and Quality Improvement
  - Nursing Skills (SNB's Core Competencies and Generic skills for ENs 2023)
- 5) Cross Disciplinary Modules (2 years pathway take one & 3 years take three)
  - Trends and Issues of Elder Care
  - Writing 101
  - Wellness & Mindfulness

*Note: Cross Disciplinary modules are specific to ITE's Higher Nitec programme and subject to revision.*

- 6) Elective Modules (2 years pathway take one, 3 years take all eight)
  - Conversational Language
  - Foundations of Mother & Childcare
  - Understanding Cancer & Palliative Care
  - Community & Integrated Care
  - Fundamentals of Healthcare Ethics & Law
  - Principles of Mentoring & Coaching
  - Innovation & Entrepreneurship
  - Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice in Healthcare

*Note: Electives modules subject to revision, based on trends and needs of healthcare industry.*

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

Replacement for the Pre-enrolment Nursing Programme: not more than **6 weeks** of clinical hours to be replaced with clinical simulation.

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

<b>Disciplines</b>	<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<b>General Medical</b> (Acute, Community Hospitals or Nursing Homes with minimum of 4 weeks in acute hospital)	9	360
<b>Elder Care / Intermediate and Long -Term Care/Palliative Care</b> (Community Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Elder Day Care/Rehabilitation Centres)	4	160
<b>Community Health</b> (Primary Care, School Health, Home Nursing and Community Health Services)	1	40
<b>Mental Health</b> (Institute of Mental Health)	1	40
<b>General Surgical</b> (Surgical & Orthopaedics)	4	160
<b>Consolidated Clinical Practice*</b> (Medical-Surgical)	9	360
Total	28	1120

\*Consolidated Clinical Placement shall take place only when students have completed/passed all core modules. The placement period shall be at least 9 weeks.

NB: A maximum of 6 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-enrolment nursing programmes within 4 years and/or 6 years (for full-time programme of 2 /3 years duration respectively). 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/reaccreditation)*

### Fitness to Practice Advisory for nursing students

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 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 Institute of Technical Education for more information.